

JPRS-SEA-86-057

1 APRIL 1986

Southeast Asia Report



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1 April 1986

SOUTHEAST ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

INDONESIA

Biographic Information on Indonesian Personalities	1
Malaysian Official Comments on Incident With Fisherman (ANTARA, 14 Mar 86)	3

LAOS

Refugees Repatriated From Thailand (AFP, 14 Mar 86)	4
Cooperative Reform in Champassak, Membership Drop Noted (Champamai; PASASON, 29 Jan 86)	5
Commentary on Indochina Ministers' Conference, PRC Ties (PASASON, 29 Jan 86)	6
Successful Vientiane Antibandit Operations, Units Noted (Ph. Phapmisai; PASASON, 11 Jan 86)	8
Agricultural Machinery Plant Capacities Reported (Ch Paseut; PASASON, 11 Jan 86)	10
Oil Transport Firm Operations, Problems With Enemy (Bouakham; PASASON, 11 Jan 86)	11
Enterprise Head Discusses Management Problems (PASASON, 11 Jan 86)	13
'Talk' Sees Disintegration of CGDK (PASASON, 13 Jan 86)	15
Phoumi Vongvichit Addresses Course Opening (KPL, 14 Mar 86)	17

Briefs

SRV-Aided Dam (KPL)	18
Women's Union Membership in Luang Prabang	18
New Malaysian Charge D'Affaires	18
Seminar for Diplomats Opened	18

MALAYSIA

Commentary Discusses Tan Koon Swan's Resignation Request (KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS, 28 Jan 86)	19
Lim Kit Siang Warns MCA To Stop Attacking DAP (KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS, 26 Jan 86)	21
Pan-El Affair's Impact on Politics Discussed (KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS, 23 Jan 86)	22
Editorial Discusses Tan Koon Swan's Arrest (SIN CHEW JIT POH MALAYSIA, 23 Jan 86)	24
MCA, Gerakan Issue Joint Statement of Merger Effort (SIN CHEW JIT POH MALAYSIA, 16 Jan 86)	26
Singapore Leader's Comment About the MCA Criticized (Editorial; BERITA HARIAN, 8 Feb 86)	29
Subtle Approach to Application of Islamic Values Advocated (Editorial; BERITA HARIAN, 6 Feb 86)	31
Contradictory PAS Attitudes Reviewed (Editorial; UTUSAN MALAYSIA, 3 Feb 86)	33
PAS-DAP Merger as Election Tactic Discussed (BERITA HARIAN, 16, 17 Jan 86)	35
Editorial Comment on PAS Tactics	35
DAP Leader Certain of Accord	36
3 Explosions in East Sabah; 1 Killed (BERNAMA, 18 Mar 86)	38
Officials on Options After Tin Agreement Collapse (Bernard Lim; BERNAMA, 12 Mar 86)	40

THAILAND

SUA Runs Before SRUB Attacks, Thais Grant Refuge (DAO SIAM, 27 Feb 86)	42
Reaction to Possible U.S. Bases Continues (LAK THAI, 27 Feb 86)	43

Paper Continues Criticism of Farm Bill (Editorial; THAI RAT, 11 Feb 86)	45
Phichai on Democrat-Army Relations, 1987 Poll (Phichai Rattakun Interview; MATICHON SUT SAPDA, 23 Feb 86)	46
Army Secretary, Northeast MPs Defend Athit (THAI RAT, 27 Feb 86)	48
Columnist Cites Thanat Khoman in Opposing U.S. Bases (Hoena Kindin; SIAM RAT, 27 Feb 86)	50
Internal Army Controversy Continues Over Athit Extension (LAK THAI, 6 Mar 86; SU ANAKHOT, various dates)	52
LAK THAI Analysis	52
CRMA Class 1 Input Reported	54
Defense Council Meeting, Athit Aide	57
PRC Parliamentary Delegation Arrives for Visit (THE NATION, 8 Mar 86)	59
Time Bomb Defused at Provincial Town Hall (THE NATION, 18 Mar 86)	60
Athit Says Time Bomb Not Work of Communists (THE NATION, 19 Mar 86)	61
VOFA Reports Government Statement on Tin Crisis (Voice of Free Asia, 13 Mar 86)	62
Industry Minister Comments on Tin Council Debt (BANGKOK POST, 13 Mar 86)	64
Editorial Supports Government Stand on Tin (BANGKOK POST, 12 Mar 86)	65
Briefs	
SAP Drive for Bunchu Chairmanship	68
Separatists on Malaysia Border	68
Reaction to Low Rice Prices	69
Ties With 8 Caribbean Nations	69

VIETNAM

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE, AND AID

Tran Quynh Leads Delegation to Olof Palme Funeral (VNA, 17 Mar 86)	70
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Pham Van Dong Pays Tribute to Olof Palme (VNA, 14 Mar 86)	71
Briefs	
Honecker Meets SRV Envoy	73
UN Session on Women's Rights	73
Mongolian Youth Delegation Visit	73
Greetings to Madagascar	74
TU Delegation to Laos	74
Soviet-SRV Friendship Museum	74
Envoy to Algeria Presents Credentials	74
SRV, CSSR Rubber Planting Agreement	74
SRV-Angolan Solidarity Meeting	75
PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT	
Consequences of Leaders' Aloofness From People Discussed (Tran Dinh Van; DAI DOAN KET, 20 Nov, 4 Dec 85)	76
Haiphong Issues New Cadre, Organization Regulations (HAI PHONG, 18 Jan 86)	85
Haiphong Party Conference Emphasizes Control Task (HAI PHONG, 11 Jan 86)	91
ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE, AND FINANCE	
Haiphong Strengthens Market Management (HAI PHONG, 8 Jan 86)	94
HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION	
Cement Plant Begins Year With Increased Production (HAI PHONG, 11 Jan 86)	96
Trang Kenh Quarry Supports Cement Production (HAI PHONG, 9 Jan 86)	97
Haiphong Cement Plant Steadily Increases Production (Ta Huu Ban; HAI PHONG, 8 Jan 86)	98
POPULATION, CUSTOMS, AND CULTURE	
Haiphong Bans Ritual Paraphernalia (HAI PHONG, 21 Jan 86)	100

INDONESIA

BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON INDONESIAN PERSONALITIES

[Unless otherwise noted, the following information on Indonesian personalities has been extracted from Indonesian language sources published in Jakarta]

PROF DR SOENAWAR SOEKOWATI DIES--Prof Dr Soenawar Soekowati, SH [Master of Laws], general chairman of the Central Executive Committee (DPP) of the Indonesian Democracy Party (PDI), was buried in a state ceremony at the Kalibata Heroes' Cemetery yesterday afternoon at 4 pm. He died Sunday night [12 January] at 11.30 pm in the PMI Hospital in Bogor [West Java] after suffering a heart attack on his way home to Jakarta from Bandung. Soenawar Soekowati was born on 6 September 1924 in Ngemplak, Solo, Central Java. He leaves his wife, the former Anna Paulina Dengah, and eight children. After graduating from high school he attended UGM [Universitas Gajah Mada] Law School, then he obtained a doctorate in political economy from Padjadjaran University in Bandung [West Java]. The positions he held included: member of the MPRS [Provisional People's Consultative Council] from 1966 to 1972, Minister of State for Operational Supervision of Development from 1968 to 1973, Minister of State for Social Welfare from 1973 to 1978 and Deputy Chairman of Indonesia's High Consultative Council from 1978 until his death. He was chairman of the DPP [Central Executive Board] of the Indonesian National Party from 1966 to 1974, General Chairman of the DPP of the Marhaenis Workers Union from 1966 to 1986, Chairman of the DPP of the Indonesian Democracy Party from 1974 to 1981 and General Chairman of the DPP of that party from 1981 to 1986. [Excerpts] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 14 Jan 86 pp 1, 8] 9846

SURYADI KROMOMIHARDJO DIES--The Indonesian ambassador to Finland, Suryadi Kromomihardjo, died on Tuesday [21 January] in Finland after suffering for some time from diabetes. Suryadi was born in Banten, Serang, West Java, in 1929. A career diplomat, he was a first-generation graduate of the Foreign Service Academy. Before becoming ambassador to Finland on 20 November 1982 he was head of the consular section at the Indonesian Embassy in The Hague, the Netherlands. He leaves his wife, two sons and two daughters. [Excerpts] [Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 23 Jan 86 p 11] 9846

MAJ GEN SOERIPTO--KSAD [Chief of Staff] Rudini installed Maj Gen Soeripto as Strategic Reserves Commander of the Indonesian Army (PANGKOSTRAD) this morning. Maj Gen Soeripto, former commander of Military Region I (Bukit Barisan), is replacing Let Gen Soeweno, who has held that position since 1983. The transfer of power which took place this morning clearly shows the

changeover of generations in the Army. Apart from Gen Rudini, Soeweno is the last officer of the 1945 generation who still has a top position. Born in Madiun [Central Java] in 1929, Maj Gen Soeripto is from the elite Special Forces Command of the Army, better known as the Red Berets. Most of his career has been in that command. Known as a simple, low-profile person, the 51-year old Soeripto will be the 13th PANGKOSTRAD and the first graduate of the National Military Academy (now called the Military Academy) to hold this position. This command includes supervision of two full infantry divisions with their battle support, one of which is capable of airborne operations. This command is estimated to have about 20,000 men equipped with the latest weapons; part of this command is the 328th (Siliwangi) Airborne Battalion. Maj Gen Soeripto has had broad experience over an important part of Indonesia's territory. He has been a military district and battalion commander in Jakarta, intelligence assistant in Military Regional Command III (Siliwangi), and before that Deputy Head of Army Information Services and Intelligence Assistant at Military Regional Command VIII (Cendrawasih-Irian Jaya). In Sumatra he was Assistant Defense Regional Commander and was twice Military District Commander. In West Kalimantan he was head of staff for the Military Regional Command. Soeripto is no stranger to the Strategic Reserves Command; he was head of staff for that command when Gen Rudini was its commander. [Excerpts] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 30 Jan 86 p 12] 9846

MAJ GEN DJAROT SUPADMO--A ceremony transferring the post of PANGDAM [Military District Commander] for District I (Bukit Barisan) from Maj Gen Soeripto to his replacement Maj Gen Djarot Supadmo took place in Medan [North Sumatra] yesterday. Maj Gen Djarot Supadmo was born in Solo [Central Java] in 1941. He graduated from the National Military Academy in 1962 and in 1976 he became commander of Armed Battalion 2 in Delitua, Medan. From 1983 to 1985 he was military attache in the United States. He then served at Army Headquarters. He also attended the Joint Command and Staff School in the United States. [Excerpts] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 29 Jan 86 p 1] 9846

CSO: 4213/105

INDONESIA

MALAYSIAN OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON INCIDENT WITH FISHERMAN

EK141429 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1258 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Medan, March 14 (ANTARA)--The Malaysian Consulate General in Medan made it clear Thursday that Malaysia would not interfere with whatever measures taken by Indonesian Government against Malay fishermen caught illegally fishing in the Indonesian waters, as they were previously given directives and warnings.

The Malaysia stance was stated by vice consul of the Malaysian Consulate Zulkifi Zudin in connection with the Malaysian fisherman, Tan A Chiang, 26, who was shot to death by security guards when he was caught fishing illegally on the Indonesian waters, near Belawan Port last Tuesday.

"Malaysia would not interfere in the enforcement of Indonesian law in its own country," he stressed.

He explained that Malaysia fishermen, generally living in coastal areas prior to their departure to the sea, were searched by police and the navy, if they carried such prohibited goods as hemp or guns.

They were also briefed that every country has its own law and regulations in preserving its natural resources which should be honoured by all sides.

"If there are offenders, like the fisherman who had become the victim, the results should be borne by the person concerned," he said.

The consulate however, he said, would not keep hands-off stance, but would take care of the remains and inform his relatives in Malaysia to fetch it.

Tan A Chiang, the dead fisherman, was caught red-handed by security guards when fishing in the Indonesian waters. The Indonesian officers asked them to surrender but he attempted to escape although the guards had fired several rounds, as warning shot.

The guards then aimed their gun to the target hitting Tan's left breast and arrested him.

Arriving at the Belawan Port, Tan was rushed to the hospital but he died a moment later.

/9599
CSO: 4200/815

LAOS

REFUGEES REPATRIATED FROM THAILAND

HK140642 Hong Kong AFP in English 0540 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Bangkok, March 14 (AFP)--Thirty-nine Laotian refugees were being repatriated Friday to Laos from Thailand, the second voluntary repatriation this week, it was announced here.

A spokesman for the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said they were to be sent back to Laos in the afternoon from the Thai border town of Nong Khai, 616 kilometers (370 miles) northeast of here.

They had been living in a refugee camp in Ubon Ratchathani Province, 647 kilometers (388 miles) northeast of here, at the southern end of the Thai-Laotian border.

The UNHCR Tuesday sent 20 refugees back to Laos, under the UNHCR-sponsored voluntary repatriation program.

Today's repatriation would bring the numbers of refugees who have returned to Laos since the programme started in 1980 to 2,099 from lowland areas and 756 from hilltribes areas, the spokesman added.

An estimated 10 percent of the three million-strong Laotian population fled the country after the communist regime was installed in December 1975.

/9599

CSO: 4200/819

LAOS

COOPERATIVE REFORM IN CHAMPSAK, MEMBERSHIP DROP NOTED

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 29 Jan 86 p 2

[Article by Champamai: "Agricultural Co-op Reform in Champassak Province in the Past 10 Years"]

[Excerpts] The agricultural co-op is a basic element of collective living, gathering into groups farmers who live privately and in a scattered fashion and who depend only on nature in their farming.

In order to implement the various plenums of the party Central Committee and the government, in May 1978 the party committee and the provincial administrative committee along with a number of work sections concerned organized and comprehensively divided up the duties in each district to mobilize the farmers and ethnic groups throughout the province so they would understand the significance of agricultural co-op organization. In 1979 there were 478 co-op units, 28,272 families, and a total of 132,864 co-op members throughout Champassak Province. However, there had not yet been lessons in guidance and the awakening and understanding of the co-op members had not yet been deepened, resulting in the failure of production to meet the demand.

Therefore, the party committee, the provincial administrative committee, and the agriculture, irrigation, and provincial agricultural co-op organization held a conference to discuss their strengths and weaknesses. Agricultural co-op reform in Champassak Province has been seen to be effective. Farmers and ethnic groups have gradually filled applications to become members. The figures clearly confirm that in 1981 there were 305 members, 19,039 families, and 114,305 co-op members. The total rice-field area was 33,651 hectares and the co-op units totaled 319. Expansion in quality and quantity has continued without a break. In 1985, which was the last year of the 5-2 year Plan of the government (1981-85), throughout Champassak Province there were 645 units, 728 villages, 59,256 families, and a total of 244,851 co-op members. There were 79,253 hectares of rice-fields, 250 strong co-op units, and 57 outstanding units. In the past 10 years 424 co-op units were transferred from private ownership to agricultural co-ops with a total of 47,937 hectares of ricefields and 24,943 draft animals. There were 578.78 hectares of coffee plantation and 201 hectares of cardamom. Throughout Champassak Province there were 148 co-op stores, 13 tractors, 181 rice mills, 558 insecticide sprayers, and a quantity of other equipment components.

LAOS

COMMENTARY ON INDOCHINA MINISTERS' CONFERENCE. PRC TIES

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 29 Jan 86 p 4

[Commentary: "Important Factors for Guaranteeing Peace in Southeast Asia"]

[Text] Everyone knows that the three countries of Indochina were most unfortunate as a result of the long and bloody war. Thus, the three countries of Indochina have always had a strong desire for peace and fraternal relationships with neighboring countries regardless of differences in political systems, as clearly indicated in the foreign policies of independence, peace, and socialism of the LPDR, the PRK, and the SRV. The 12th Ministers' Conference of the three nations of Indochina in Vientiane Capital on 23-24 January emphasized once more their correct and unchanging views toward other countries, for example, between the three nations of Indochina and China.

In the past as well as now, the people of the three countries of Indochina have always given significant thought toward their long-term relationship with the Chinese people and they hope for a speedy revival of that relationship. Thus, although now the Vietnam-China border situation is affected by the thirst for expansion and the hegemonism of the international reactionaries, the government of the SRV has been looking in every possible way for a peaceful solution to the problem. It has continued to propose to the Chinese side that both sides carry on talks in order to normalize Chinese-Vietnamese relations. In addition to this, the Vietnamese side has done a great deal to encourage talk between both sides to become speedily fruitful. For example, the government of the SRV proposed to the Chinese side that there be a cease fire so as to prevent gunfire along the long Chinese-Vietnamese border on the occasion of the National Days and the New Year Days of the people of China and Vietnam. They also proposed the handing over of Chinese prisoners, along with many other proposals.

The true actions above all clearly confirm the good intentions of the people in the three nations of Indochina in general and the good intentions of the SRV in particular, which has always seriously wished to improve and normalize relations with the Chinese people. The people of the three nations of Indochina have always considered ties with the PRC of the utmost importance in guaranteeing the peace and stability of Asia and Southeast Asia. They believe that differences between the parties concerned must

be solved by talk and not by force. Thus, the Lao people have agreed with the fraternal Cambodian people to encourage the SRV and give it their full support in its efforts to revive talks with China with no conditions set in advance. Their purpose is to normalize relations, and this will be an important factor in guaranteeing the rights and interests of the Chinese and Vietnamese people, and the rights and peace of Asia, Southeast Asia, and the world.

9884/9190
CSO: 4206/68

LAOS

SUCCESSFUL VIENTIANE ANTIBANDIT OPERATIONS, UNITS NOTED

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 11 Jan 86 p 2

[Article by Ph Phapmisai: "Heritage and 10-year Achievements of All Vientiane Provincial Military Forces"]

[Excerpts] In the report of the Vientiane provincial military commander at his headquarters on 20 December on the 10th anniversary of the celebration of National Day on 2 December, he pointed out the heritage and many achievements of all the provincial military forces within the past 10-year period.

By continuing in their heritage, the military forces in Vientiane Province succeeded in the two duties throughout the 10-year period of national defense and socialist construction. They have a firm and persistent fighting spirit in carrying out their duty, and each level of the organized system has been improved greatly, resulting in an increase in terms of both quality and quantity. The security forces have been improved. In order to complete their duties, all the military forces, starting with independent companies, district military units, and guerrilla units, have been organized into battalions and collective battalions in many departments in small areas and districts throughout the province. Here 64 percent of them are mobile forces, giving the cadres and combatants a chance to have training in sessions so that they will understand their duties. Over the past 10-year period the military forces throughout the province have worked in cooperation with the regular forces in searching for and wiping out bandits. Their units completely wiped out the enemies in the province.

In implementing Plenum 51 of the party Central Committee on turning to build the grass roots, the party committee and the Vientiane Province military command set aside a number of cadres to work together with districts in training and organizing many canton- and village-level cadres and organized 763 youth union units at the canton and village levels, built 53 strong cantons and 198 villages with 8,944 strong families, built 20 housing units at the grass roots, and expanded by 150 party members.

The past 10 years were a period in which military forces throughout the province persisted in together struggling through and carrying out their

security duties in their localities, especially the operation to wipe out completely the bandit remnants who are still hiding in the forest far from the districts. Leading the provincial military forces were several model units in the operation to wipe out bandits: Independent Companies A and B and the Kasi District guerrilla unit. The model Independent Company A carried out its duty in Hom District along Phou Ngou Canton and Pha Lavek and protected leading district organizations. The cadres and combatants in this unit are all children of our Mong tribe in that locality. They carried out two duties at the same time: they propagandized for grass roots construction and also fought with the support they obtained from the people. No matter what situation they found themselves in, they continued to maintain their heritage and promoted their self-sufficient production to the 80 percent level. Company B and the guerrilla unit in Kasi District achieved many outstanding achievements. Since 1975, Company B has been assigned to work along with the regular forces and the regional forces in wiping out bandits who had sneaked in to incite unrest in their own locality. There were brave heroes, such as Comrade Siang Boualai, who made sacrifices in wiping out a bandit operation in late September 1985. He bravely sacrificed his life in defending his hometown.

Cultivation and Animal husbandry

A quartermaster was set up. Throughout the past 10-year period the Vientiane Province military forces had 189 cattle, 819 pigs, and 6,147 poultry. They grew assorted crops and rice. Each year they were able to become self-sufficient for 2-6 months as planned by the higher echelons.

9884/9190
CSO: 4206/66

LAOS

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY PLANT CAPACITIES REPORTED

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 11 Jan 86 p 2

[Article by Ch Paseut: "Producing While Creating"]

[Text] There have always been outstanding models in defending and constructing our socialist nation, in particular the Km 8 Agricultural Machinery Plant. Although shovels, spades, harrows, ploughs, buckets, watering cans, etc. are the main products of the plant, the workers have also admirably encouraged creativity in producing several new machines.

The Km 8 Agricultural Machinery Plant is located in Hataifong District, Vientiane Capital. In addition to emulation for producing agricultural tools for seasonal use according to the factory plan, the workers and cadres in the factory are trying to use their knowledge and ability in applying scientific technology plus existing domestic materials and equipment to create new machinery for agricultural use, such as a rice-milling machine, an animal feed-grinding machine, and a machine for removing corn kernels. The fact is that it takes 3 months for three engineers to build a rice mill, and its production capacity is 500 kg of rice per hour. It takes only 15 days with only one engineer to complete an animal feed-grinding machine, and its production capacity is 60 kg of animal feed per hour. The machine for removing corn kernels has the same capacity.

The only equipment used for assembling each machine that comes from abroad are the motor, auger, and conveyer belt. Other spare parts come from our workers' creativity.

In the future they will try to produce the equipment now purchased abroad, and they will produce not only rice-milling machinery, machines for grinding animal feed, and machines for removing corn kernels but also new kinds of machines for agricultural production which will enable our farmers to have more advanced tools for production so as to raise the standard of living of the people step by step.

9884/9190
CSO: 4206/66

LAOS

OIL TRANSPORT FIRM OPERATIONS, PROBLEMS WITH ENEMY

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 11 Jan 86 p 2

[Article by Bouakham: "Oil Transport Company No 4 Turns Over a New Leaf"]

[Excerpts] Socialist construction and transformation in our country nowadays go hand in hand with the expansion of other tasks. Oil Transport Company No 4 is under the Ministry of Material and Technical Supply. In the 3-year period for reconstructing itself the company succeeded in many obligations, especially the transport of fuel oil throughout the country.

The transport company is located on the road to Tha Deua, 9 km from Vientiane Capital. It has a total of 136 cadres, of which 13 are women. It is divided into six production units. In devolving the circulation and distribution to the people's production bases, the company transports fuel oil within Vientiane Capital, where its storage center is in Dong Chong. It supplies oil to various circulation areas within seven districts in order to serve the people and different government offices and organizations. The company also has agents in Khwoa District, where it supplies oil to the three northern provinces of Oudomsai, Louang Namtha, and Phong Saly.

In the southern region alone there are transport agents in Phin District, Savannakhet Province, and in the area of Phou Ngou (Nam Thon) in Khammouan Province. As we all know, the past 10 years were a period in which we obtained great victories in many ways and became increasingly stronger. However, during this period the transport of oil encountered many difficulties, for example, it had to resist the enemy's movements, and there were problems with north-south communication routes. Some strategic routes such as Route 12 and Route 9 were not yet made convenient, and also the enemy propagandized to incite against and dismantle our domestic and international solidarity, for example, the solidarity between Laos and Vietnam. However, such rumors were fought step by step.

In 1985 alone they were able to transport 21,243.18 cubic meters of oil a 109.08 percent increase over the amount in 1983. Each trip they hauled 10,000 liters of oil. The transport vehicles were also improved for full-scale use.

Comrade Khamphan Leummavan, chief of the company's board of directors, said firmly that in order to succeed in the Second 5-year Plan of the government and also to make the speech General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan become a reality, we are planning to strive for 832,000 cubic meters in transport alone.

9884/9190
LSC: 4206/66

LAOS

ENTERPRISE HEAD DISCUSSES MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 11 Jan 86 p 2

[Views of the chief of the board of directors of the Lao Tobacco Company, Comrade Bounmi Sida: "We Believe That the New Task Will Become Reality"]

[Text] The temporary regulations of the Council of Ministers on state enterprise No 67/PSL issued on 19 November 1985 are most important, for they guide the direction of our all-round business operations, from organizing the chain of production, the business production plan, and production management to distribution of products. It supports and guarantees us in carrying out our duties in business and our full rights in the realm of enterprise, for example, in being our own masters in finance, in using capital and labor, and in assigning labor and in steadily promoting production. It is also a guarantee for setting regulations for, and various policies on, production and the various business activities of our company.

The regulation indicates in detail the collective mastery of the workers in achieving enterprise mastery, along with their benefits and obligations toward the government, and in enterprise management.

Since April 1981 our company has studied a structural plan for becoming an enterprise; later it became a business and has now succeeded in becoming a complete business enterprise. However, the regulations the company set up on its own only provide some direction. In actual organizing techniques there have been many things that cannot be carried out because it was not possible to guarantee their implementation. Related sections that are involved also have not yet become an enterprise, and different management units and organizations do not yet understand or do not yet have regulations that clearly indicate work cooperation, especially the signing of different agreements, the implementation of the agreements, and the assumption of serious responsibility for them. Therefore, it has become the same old administrative subsidiary.

The problems mentioned above have prevented our businesses and productive activities from making the progress they should. It can be said that it is where it was before. Later in 1985 we received guidance in carrying out the new business management, which calculated the structure of the new

machinery. At that time we were still hesitant, and we were afraid it would not work as before.

Now that there has been a plenum of the Council of Ministers and there are temporary regulations on state enterprises, we firmly believe that our new task will definitely work.

In the future we will try to succeed in implementing the different rules of this plenum correctly and step by step in the following ways:

1. Organize and disseminate the contents to our cadres, workers, and government employees (and especially work together with the trade unions) so that they will understand the contents thoroughly and throughout.
2. Use the rules of the plenum in setting additional internal regulations on work and management, in adopting different principles, in assigning labor in accordance with various specialized tasks, in improving the proper daily work system and different policies, and in aiming at converting from the business management of the administrative subsidiary to true management of the new socialist business.

9884/9190
CSO: 4206/66

LAOS

'TALK' SEES DISINTEGRATION OF CGDK

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 13 Jan 86 p 3

["Talk" Column: "Confusing Group"]

[Text] What the leaders of Washington, Beijing, and Bangkok are most worried about is the lack of internal unity in the three-government Khmer reactionary group, especially Beijing, which has been backing the Sihanouk-Son San-Khieu Samphan group. As soon as they proclaimed themselves the ones to lead the routed Pol Pot clique back to regain power once more in Cambodia, they had to face great disappointment and disgrace when those called the leaders of the Khmer triple-coalition government, who not long ago pledged their love for each other, started fighting each other.

In order to correct the late December news Sihanouk put on an act by announcing in Hong Kong that the Khmer triple coalition is still as strongly united as before and that nothing has changed. However, the world assessed the event as a deceitful political act directed by Beijing.

No matter how much the reactionaries tried to deny the news, the truth is that when Son San visited Beijing along with Sihanouk and Khieu Samphan to receive their orders, guidance, and food allowance, Sak Souksakan and his followers announced their seizure of power from Son San on 17 December. These routed soldiers probably no longer had faith in their leader and grew tired of him because he only tried to save himself and beg for a living abroad and knew nothing of the life-and-death situation of the routed Khmer soldiers hiding in Thailand.

The minions are no worse than their masters. From observation, although Son San, Sihanouk, and Khieu Samphan said they would be willing to work together, that is just empty talk. In reality each of them is hoping to obtain foreign aid by deceit, especially from China and the United States. None of them is really good. They all fight among themselves in endless conflicts and internal disunity. Diplomatic circles in Bangkok who are well aware of this matter said one time that the Khmer reactionary exiles often spend 30 percent of their time fighting for power among themselves. In addition, those who have a little influence along the Thai-Cambodian border collaborate with the Thai authorities in illegal trading on the black market, especially with the aid from outside which they are only out

to get just for themselves. As a result, their henchmen, who are waiting for their orders, are now facing starvation and death.

ASEAN and especially the Thai ultrarightist reactionary clique which had supported them for a long time are now starting to decrease their support. The 2,857 issue of the Thai newspaper MATICHON gave an example of this when it said that recently an ASEAN foreign minister was sitting asleep while Son San was begging for financial aid.

Because of the continuing conflict and fighting among themselves, the future of the so-called nonexistent Democratic Kampuchea will certainly be erased once more.

9884/9190
CSO: 4206/66

20000

PHOUMI VONGVICHIT ADDRESSES COURSE OPENING

BK140956 Vientiane KPL in English 0859 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Vientiane, March 14 (OANA-KPL)--Marxism-Leninism plays an important role in the improvement of educational work in the new phase of our revolution, Phoumi Vongvichit, Politburo member of the LPRP CC, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers said here yesterday at the opening ceremony of the 3-month course on Marxism-Leninism for teachers, the 8th of its kind.

The vice-chairman stressed that the development of education one step forward intended in the government guidelines is linked with the political awareness and the application of it by the teaching corps.

Marxism-Leninism can expand one's wisdom, the vice-chairman said. He further expressed hope that all participants would do their best to forge themselves to become revolutionary educators. He also appealed to them to effectively apply experiences drawn from the course in their daily work.

Eighty participants from throughout the country are to deal with Marxist-Leninist philosophy, political economy, and scientific communism documents. This series of courses held by the Ministry of Education is aimed at improving and enhancing education network qualitatively and quantitatively throughout the country.

/9599
CSO: 4200/819

LAOS

BRIEFS

SRV-AIDED DAM (KPL)--The construction of the Nam Li dam in Canton and Ban Poung, Namtha District, Louang Namtha Province, began in early 1985 with technical assistance cooperation from the SRV, and by 20 January some 60 percent of the total construction has been completed. Some of the construction projects that were completed were the digging of over 2,000 cubic meters of stones and pebbles, the pouring of 30 cubic meters of concrete, and the filling of 12,000 cubic meters of dirt to build a dike 84 meters long and able to hold 3.5 million cubic meters of water in the rainy season. One 30-kw turbine was installed, and the main test was held on 20 January. Another turbine of 20 kw will also be installed. Their purpose is to expand the electricity network to and the construction of a new life in the rural areas step by step. Construction is expected to be completed in March 1986. [Text] [Vientiane PASASON in Lao 29 Jan 86 p 1] 9884/9190

WOMEN'S UNION MEMBERSHIP IN LUANG PRABANG--The Women's Organization in Luang Prabang has been growing larger and stronger. It now has 30,781 members and is divided into 5,880 units. [Excerpts] [Vientiane PASASON in Lao 29 Jan 86 p 2] 9884/9190

NEW MALAYSIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES--Vientiane, 10 Mar (KPL)--Souban Salithilat, deputy-minister for foreign affairs of the Lao PDR, received here on March 7 the new charge d'affaires of Malaysia to Laos, Zain Abu Bakar. At the meeting, the two officials discussed ways and means to enhance the friendship relations between Laos and Malaysia for the interest of peace, friendship, and cooperation among states in Southeast Asia. [Text] [Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 10 Mar 86 BK] /9599

SEMINAR FOR DIPLOMATS OPENED--Vientiane, 15 Mar (KPL)--The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is holding a seminar here chaired by its first deputy-minister, Khamphai Boupha, for 100 Lao diplomats accredited abroad. The participants are to study documents on the political report of the Foreign Ministry, the resolution of the 9th Party CC Plenum (3d Congress). They will be also informed about the achievements of the Lao PDR during the past 10 years. The long- and short-term plans of the party and state are also to be discussed. The conference, the 3d of its kind, was opened this morning and will last until March 22. [Text] [(Vientiane KPL in English 0901 GMT 15 Mar 86 BK) /9599

CSO: 4200/819

MALAYSIA

COMMENTARY DISCUSSES TAN KOON SWAN'S RESIGNATION REQUEST

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 28 Jan 86 p 2

[Commentary: "Tan Koon Swan Gives Up His Post As MCA President"]

[Text] The other day the Central Committee of the Malaysian Chinese Association [MCA] held an emergency meeting and unanimously rejected Tan Koon Swan's request to resign from the post of MCA president.

Due to his involvement in the Pan-Electric Industries affair, Tan was charged by the Singapore government with six counts of offense which incited public distrust. At present he is physically still located in Singapore and he has entrusted a certain person with carrying his handwritten letter of resignation and handing it over to MCA Secretary General Datuk Lee Kim Sai.

Tan's initiative to request his resignation from the presidency and other posts in the MCA is an ordinary thing to do. As he pointed out in his resignation letter, the Pan-El affair is entirely his own doing in commercial matters, which has nothing to do with his party directly. However, as he did not want the party to be dragged into the Pan-El incident, he resolutely decided to relinquish all his MCA posts.

Tan's course of action coincides with the democratic procedures, an indication of democratic spirit. As in America, when a party leader is involved in a blunder in conduct or indicted by the court, he must promptly detach himself from his party or government even if his case has not yet been decided by the judicial process. This is for the purpose of safeguarding the convention that a person's affair should not affect the reputation of his party or government.

At the present moment, the case of Tan Koon Swan is still pending, so the timing of his request for resignation is an opportune one.

Again, the next general election in our country is in the offing, and MCA will definitely take part in it. But the party's president in the person of Tan Koon Swan is still involved in a court case in a foreign country, which will take at least a year or two to be settled. So it appears that the MCA will be like a "host of dragons without a head"--a leaderless group.

Tan's request for resignation may have been based on personal reasons. If he really quits the MCA presidency, it will lighten his spiritual burden and at the same time he can devote his energy to handling his court case.

Consequently, his feeling of embarrassment to quit the post is understandable and acceptable.

It cannot be denied that if he should resign from his MCA presidency, it would be a big blow to the party and especially to his loyal supporters.

All insiders know that Tan Koon Swan, like most U.S. statesmen, has walked a combined politico-economic line. It is possible that many people who are involved with him in political matters are also related in commercial or professional activities, either directly or indirectly. As a matter of fact, the case of Tan Koon Swan has caused multifaceted repercussions.

It was Tan's personal aspiration to quit the party presidency, but his request was turned down by MCA's Central Committee in its meeting several days ago.

The Central Committee listed three reasons for rejecting the president's resignation, but the one thing that gave Tan Koon Swan the biggest spiritual support was the party's decision to retain his leadership.

Not long ago, MCA's deputy president, Datuk Dr Ling Liang Sik, told reporters that at a time when Tan Koon Swan is faced with difficulties, the party will never discard him; on the contrary, MCA will give Tan Koon Swan the biggest support possible.

Ling Liang Sik's remark and intention was "we should stick together through thick and thin."

The MCA Central Committee's rejection of Mr Tan's resignation shows that the party leadership wants to continue to support Tan Koon Swan's leadership. But will this decision bring bigger benefits to the party and Tan personally? This is the crux of the problem.

9300/12379
CSO: 4205/11

MALAYSIA

LIM KIT SIANG WARNS MCA TO STOP ATTACKING DAP

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 26 Jan 86 p 3

[Text] Lim Kit Siang, secretary general of the Democratic Action Party [DAP], today gave the Malaysian Chinese Association [MCA] a final warning to stop, within 24 hours, all unfounded and irresponsible actions attacking his party or else he would launch a nationwide counterattack.

In his statement, Lim stressed that in order to shift the public's attention and line of vision, MCA has been attempting to stir up the sentiment of its members and even of the Chinese community in the wake of the politicization of the arrest of MCA President Tan Koon Swan in Singapore.

Lim Kit Siang pointed out that the DAP will not remain silent to MCA's attempt to involve his party in evildoing.

He indicated that during the past 3 days, MCA has carried out demonstrations, issued statements and hung cloth banners through its branches and Youth Wing, accusing DAP and Lim himself of having "colluded" with Lee Kuan Yew to persecute Tan Koon Swan. "In a number of accusations, I was alleged to be the person who schemed for Tan's arrest and who wanted to ruin the political future of the Chinese in Malaysia," he said.

Lim continued: "I cannot tolerate these irresponsible political actions by MCA's new leadership. I have given MCA a 24-hour final warning that unless it issues an order instructing its membership to stop slandering DAP and myself, my party will launch a political counterattack against MCA in light of Tan Koon Swan's arrest in no time at all."

He said: "This political counterattack will include the holding of nationwide forums in which we will explain Tan Koon Swan's Pan-El Industries scandal to the public, and also its origin and development, as well as the repercussions of the scandal.

"If, after the 24-hour period is over, the MCA--including its leaders, branches and members, as well as the papers under its control--continues to carry out those unreasonable attacks against us, then our party will announce the formation of a nationwide committee to expose Tan Koon Swan's Pan-El scandal."

9300/12379
CSO: 4205/11

MALAYSIA

PAN-EL AFFAIR'S IMPACT ON POLITICS DISCUSSED

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 23 Jan 86 p 2

[Commentary: "Pan-El Affair Stirs Jp Furor"]

[Text] The Pan-Electric Industries affair jolted the political arenas and business circles in Malaysia and Singapore, and even exposed the numerous shortcomings of laws governing negotiable securities in both countries.

The detention of Tan Koon Swan, JP, by the Singapore government proves the seriousness of the case and simultaneously shows the said government's earnestness in handling this affair.

In addition to being engaged in commercial activities, Tan is also the leader of the biggest ethnic-Chinese political party in Malaysia. Before arresting him, the Singapore government must have known the impact and consequences of its move.

Tan is the newly-elected president of the Malaysian Chinese Association [MCA] and at once becomes the party's top leader. And the MCA is also a member of the National Front. Although he is not a cabinet member, Tan is, indirectly speaking, a national leader. In other words, his arrest in effect has affected the position of both MCA and the National Front.

That is why the Pan-El affair is no longer a simple commercial incident, but something serious involving politics and the economy.

The National Front coalition government had hoped that after MCA's internal power struggle, it could announce the holding of a general election within a short period. However, after the outbreak of the Pan-El affair, it is possible that the government will reconsider the pros and cons of an early general election, unless the Pan-El affair can be thoroughly resolved shortly.

We believe, however, that the Pan-El affair is just the beginning, and it will take a long, long time before the entire problem is solved.

If the government is forced by the situation to hold an early general election and if it wants the MCA to be safeguarded from the effects of the Pan-El incident, there is only one way to follow, and that is, that Tan Koon Swan himself must withdraw from MCA.

Strictly speaking, his temporary departure from MCA would mean a personal loss, involving a possible relinquishment of his powers and position; however, such a move would be beneficial to his party and the National Front government.

If Tan made such a decision, it would mean a sacrifice of the "small self" in the interest of the community. His manifestation of character would win the respect of many people.

If this Pan-El affair had broken out in Japan or the United States, and if the person involved had been a party or national leader, he would have been asked by the parties or authorities concerned to resign voluntarily in order to safeguard the reputation of the party and the country.

This affair remains unclear up to now because the Singapore government did not publicly explain the true reasons for arresting Tan Koon Swan.

Generally speaking, the purpose of his detention was to obtain a statement from the accused under examination; the detention period was also limited. However, if the case develops into an indictment, then the situation will become relatively serious.

If formal charges are brought against the accused, this proves that he is involved in a criminal behavior, and the case will be handed over to the court to be heard. If such were the case, the person involved should all the more resign from his party's position, in order to guarantee the conventional community standard that a personal affair should not affect the reputation of the party and the National Front.

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CSO: 4205/11

MALAYSIA

EDITORIAL DISCUSSES TAN KOON SWAN'S ARREST

Selangor SIN CHEW JIT POH MALAYSIA in Chinese 23 Jan 86 p 23

[Editorial: "Tan Koon Swan Detained by Singapore Government"]

[Text] Tan Koon Swan, president of the Malaysian Chinese Association [MCA], was detained by the government of Singapore the night before last. This news shocked Singapore and Malaysia, and became the focus of world attention.

According to a statement by Singapore's Ministry of Finance, Tan was arrested after an investigation made by the Commercial Affairs Inquiry Division concerning the financial problem of Pan-Electric Industries.

The development from the Pan-El takeover to Tan Koon Swan's detention amply explains that in recent years several companies have been frantically expanding their business in a most dangerous, unrealistic manner, because floating loans excessively is a kind of crisis, which often cannot withstand a test during a period of economic recession. An iron-clad case in point was the fate that befell the Carling and Yaik Dah industrial companies of Hong Kong in 1983. Our business circles should have learned a lesson and gained experience from the unfortunate commercial incidents that have occurred in recent years.

In the MCA party election on 24 November last year, Tan Koon Swan won a landslide victory over Neo Yee Pan and was elected MCA president. There is no doubt that Tan enjoyed the support of most MCA members, so it is understandable that his detention was painful to the party's Central Committee.

If viewed merely from the point of Pan-Electric financial problem or a general commercial dispute, the implication of Tan's detention by the Singapore government does not cause wide repercussions. However, Tan is MCA's current president and furthermore a favorite with the business circles and the stock market. His detention not only affects our government and MCA's image, but also deals a serious blow to his friends in the stock exchange and to other related commercial organizations.

As early as 1984, Tan Koon Swan let it be known that if the people wanted him to serve in the political field and that if he could speed up their predetermined objectives through political power, he would be prepared to relinquish all his commercial posts. Last November he indicated further that

he would devote more time and energy to party affairs and Chinese society problems. Fact has proven, however, that he has not been able to shake off the commercial entanglements but has even fallen into a quagmire. MCA's leadership should examine whether a party leader who is widely involved in commercial connections and economic profit can effectively carry out the party's political objectives.

We should calmly and rationally cope with the case of Tan Koon Swan's arrest, no matter how much a blow this incident has dealt to the Chinese society. At any rate, there must be clues that led to this event. Henceforth, members of the Chinese society must discern the quality of leaders of political parties and Chinese associations.

Politicians can also learn a lesson from this incident. If they do not realistically and sincerely serve the country and people, the result not only will bring a setback to individuals, but also will bring shame to the community.

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CSO: 4205/11

MALAYSIA

MCA, GERAKAN ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT OF MERGER EFFORT

Selangor SIN CHEW JIT POH MALAYSIA in Chinese 16 Jan 86 p 1

[Text] Both the Chinese Malaysian Association [MCA] and the Malaysian People's Movement [GERAKAN] agreed that the question of their merger occupies top priority to be resolved.

Both parties will instruct all their members to halt quarrelling with one another but to intensify their activities which are advantageous to the cooperation and contacts between the parties concerned.

This was said in a joint statement issued after the first meeting of the MCA-GERAKAN Joint Council held in Merlin Hotel, Kuala Lumpur tonight. The joint statement was read by MCA President Tan Koon Swan in the presence of GERAKAN Chairman Datuk Lim Keng Yaik.

Tan Koon Swan said that both parties agreed to hold more meetings to discuss further measures for the merger and closer cooperation in the days to come.

He added that at the meeting, delegates from both parties examined and deliberated over national problems, especially the economy, prices of primary products, retrenchment of government officials, unemployment and legislative matters which are beneficial to the country.

Tan indicated that both parties decided that dialogues will no longer be conducted through the press, but through personal contacts to bring benefit to their integration.

Both Tan Koon Swan and Lim Keng Yaik refused to answer other questions raised by reporters.

Those present at tonight's meeting were Tan Koon Swan, Ling Liang Sik, Lee Kim Sai, Chee Eng Hui and Teng Yook Heng, all representing MCA. GERAKAN was represented by Lim Keng Yaik, Leong Khee Seong, Kuok Shu Chen, Goh Cheng Teik and Gurusamy.

The closed-door meeting began at 8:15 pm and ended at 11:00 pm tonight.

According to report, the meeting did not follow a fixed agenda, but proceeded haphazardly in its deliberations over the problems of merger and the demarcation of electoral districts, as well as other matters.

As tonight's meeting was the first of its kind, the emphasis was placed on mutual contact and its preliminary exploration. Therefore, no major announcement is expected out of this meeting.

MCA representatives who sit in the MCA-GERAKAN Joint Council are MCA President Tan Koon Swan, Deputy President Datuk Ling Liang Sik, General Secretary Lee Kim Sai, Youth Wing Leader Chee Eng Hui and Chairman of the Women's Wing Teng Yook Heng. On the other hand, those representing GERAKAN in the joint council are Chairman Datuk Lim Keng Yaik, Deputy Chairman Leong Khee Seong, General Secretary Kuok Shu Chen, Vice Chairman Gurusamy and Central Committee member Goh Cheng Teik.

According to report, leaders of both parties fully realize that the only way to settle the frictions between MCA and GERAKAN is through a merger of both parties.

At the present stage, GERAKAN has no intention of changing from a multiracial into a monoracial party and, similarly, MCA has no intention of expanding from a monoracial into a multiracial party. Consequently, it is considered too premature to talk about a merger.

However, with the approach of the next general election, leaders of both parties hope to put their traditional bickerings concerning vote-wresting to a stop and, instead, to devise a joint strategy through the MCA-GERAKAN Joint Council.

According to report, this strategy is better than "mutual cooperation," although it is still far away from a merger.

At any rate, leaders of both parties fully understand that they must adopt a united stand to deal with "outsiders," although internally they may still be at loggerheads on how to handle the forthcoming general election.

In every general election in the past, the question of redistricting the electorate was invariably a sensitive issue between the two parties.

At the present time, when the situation puts the ruling parties at a "disadvantage," leaders of both MCA and GERAKAN realize that they must be "united" in one way or another in order to face the challenges of opposition parties.

Recently both parties tried to "cooperate with each other" on a certain issue, but unless their "cooperation" can be lifted to a higher level, it will result in a controversy breaking out.

Consequently, both parties should create and organize themselves into one single unit to win the distribution of electoral districts.

It is learned that the MCA-GERAKAN Joint Council will hold another meeting to study further the question of distribution of electoral districts.

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MALAYSIA

SINGAPORE LEADER'S COMMENT ABOUT THE MCA CRITICIZED

Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 8 Feb 86 p 10

[Editorial: "Impact of Goh Chok Tong's Statement"]

[Text] Since Mr Tan Koon Swan, the MCA [Malaysian Chinese Association] president, was arrested and tried in court by the Singapore authorities 2 weeks ago because of the Pan Electric crisis, the Malaysian government has avoided doing anything that could be construed as interfering in the affairs of that neighboring country. In addition to voicing the hope that the authorities of that republic would offer appropriate services to Mr Tan in his capacity as a major party leader in Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur has rejected the attempts by some people in this country to press for official intervention. The request of the Malaysian government was made on the basis of humanitarianism and friendship.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Malaysian government was not interested in interfering in this matter other than hoping that appropriate services would be offered to Mr Tan by the Singapore government. Since the beginning, the prime minister has made it clear that Malaysia had no right to intervene in this matter and that he was aware that no nation wanted outside parties to interfere in their affairs. Keeping this philosophy in mind, we were startled by and regretted the comment made by Mr Goh Chok Tong, first deputy prime minister of Singapore, concerning the MCA position in the government.

Mr Goh was quoted as saying that Singapore was not concerned about the MCA reaction toward the arrest and trial of Mr Tan because it was not the party in power in the Malaysian government. He was reported as making this statement in response to a question asked during his lecture at the Singapore Polytechnic recently. Several conclusions may be drawn from the statement made by the senior leader of Singapore. The first is that he is ignorant of Malaysian politics; the second is that he is not a diplomatic leader; and the third is that he wittingly wanted to disparage the position and image of the MCA.

It is hard to believe that a young and educated leader such as Mr Goh does not understand the politics of a neighboring country nearest to his own. Mr Goh, of course, knows that the MCA is the biggest Chinese party in Malaysia and was the founding organization of the Perikatan [Alliance] and later the National Front. He, of course, also knows that MCA members sit in the State Legislative Assemblies, Parliament, and the cabinet. So, on what basis was this statement made and what was the reasoning behind the Singapore deputy prime minister's statement?

Mr Goh perhaps made that statement inadvertently. Because he is not a trained diplomat, he perhaps made the statement without thinking. He perhaps will allege that he made the statement spontaneously and hurriedly because he had to respond to the question quickly. If he had been given a longer time to respond, he perhaps would not have made such a slanderous statement. Such reasoning is also hard to accept because Mr Goh is not a scheming politician who is spreading slander in a coffee shop. He is one of the most senior leaders in Singapore. Anything he criticizes sets the standard for his leadership.

As above, it is hard for us to draw any other conclusion than that the Singapore deputy prime minister made that statement wittingly. It is no longer important why he made that statement. The impetus for making that statement was not only to insult the MCA and its members but also the Malaysian government. As a result, the cabinet should direct the Foreign Ministry to send a letter of protest to the Singapore government. Whether Singapore failed to take this matter seriously or whether it was done to set up obstacles, the High Commission in Kuala Lumpur should send its counsellor to get that letter.

We value Singapore's friendship as we value the friendship of other neighboring nations. Singapore is not only our closest neighbor but it is an important trade partner. In many respects the two countries are mutually dependent. Singapore, for instance, obtains its water supply from Johor. If we want this relationship to remain peaceful and strong, the parties involved, especially the political leaders, should be more careful about what they say and do.

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CSO: 4213/106

MALAYSIA

SUBTLE APPROACH TO APPLICATION OF ISLAMIC VALUES ADVOCATED

Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 6 Feb 86 p 10

[Editorial: "Subtle Approach Makes a Better Impact"]

[Text] Non-Muslims as well as Muslims have reacted in various ways to the application of Islamic values. Non-Muslims perhaps feel that the progress made in the spread of Islam may be detrimental to the spread of other religions. When attempts were first made to apply Islamic values, Muslims expected, and without taking other factors into account, also thought the government would act quickly to promote the "patterning" of such values after Islam. Both of these reactions have created some problems, and certain groups have made big issues of them. If the application of these values is not explained more carefully, greater problems will certainly develop.

Also, some viewed the steps taken by the government to apply Islamic values in its administration as nothing more than political propaganda. They felt that what the government had done was merely "cosmetic." For them, the government's desire to create an administration that is reliable, incorruptible, capable, and hard-working and to establish the International Islamic University, the Islamic Bank, and other projects was merely pointing the way. Although they voiced various negative criticisms and observations, this did not lessen the government's desire to continue to be responsible for applying Islamic values that by nature were international values.

What was elucidated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when he inaugurated the Islamic Awareness Discussion meeting held at the Islamic Center recently, is perhaps connected with this matter because some civil servants in the government do not think very deeply about these concerns and are bigoted. To prevent continual misunderstanding on the part of the public, the prime minister again reminded his listeners that the application of Islamic values should not be done hurriedly and, moreover, should be done by setting examples, by providing even more information, and by using persuasion.

The prime minister's advice is very important and should be taken with an open mind. Attention should be paid to seeing that the goals set for the application of these true values are not curtailed. The application of such values must be done over a long time and ultimately will involve all the people of our country. As the prime minister said, what is meant by the application of Islamic values is the application of true values that are accepted by other re-

ligions as good values. They include the application of such values as incorruptibility, capability, discipline, loyalty, industry, patience, mutual respect, compromise, and so on.

Viewed from the aspect of what is meant by "good values," the purpose of their application, of course, is broad and clear. If they are implanted well, without too much pressure and in an organized way, we definitely will accept them and apply them readily. Nevertheless, what has always happened is that good intentions, like these, are always overcome by passions aroused through certain pressures. This is the origin of problems for the implementation of many good efforts and often obscures the real goals.

These problems are not so complex that they cannot be solved. We believe these problems arise sometimes only when the issues involved are very meaningful for society. Issues that always arouse passions are those that are connected with religion, ethnic groups, customs, beliefs, politics, economics, poverty, and so on. Views are expressed every time a leader touches on these issues. The same is true with regard to supporting or opposing proposed goals.

Unfortunately, the views expressed instantaneously also have the wrong goals. Therefore, the original issue becomes unclear and is sometimes distorted. Actually, the Islamic values that should be applied are international values that could ensure success and improvement. Their implementation requires awareness and deep spirituality. Using force, whether overtly or covertly, is not the way. Therefore, a subtle and persuasive approach makes more of an impact than does pressure.

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CSO: 4213/106

MALAYSIA

CONTRADICTORY PAS ATTITUDES REVIEWED

Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 3 Feb 86 p 8

[Editorial: "Contradictions among PAS Leadership"]

[Text] Anyone would be puzzled by the attitude displayed by the PAS [Pan-Malayan Islamic Party] which appears to be so different from the policy and desires of the party and its leaders.

On one note, the PAS does not want to cooperate with any "infidel" political party whatsoever in this country because by not cooperating it would be able to form an Islamic government.

Besides this being stated clearly by the PAS leadership, the same view has been expressed in a mandate written by Haji Hadi Awang, the vice president, which states that "the PAS opposes the UMNO [United Malays National Organization] not because it is called the UMNO but because of what is known as the National Front." So, the UMNO's affiliation with other parties in the National Front is viewed as "uniting" with infidels and at the same time makes it permissible to take the blood of UMNO members. Further, Haji Hadi's mandate supports a holy war and "to die because of opposition to the government is to die a martyr's death."

This is proof that the mandate as well as the recent PAS struggle is moving toward confrontation and is deviating from party policy by revealing the crisis in values that exists among its leadership.

For instance, Haji Yusof Rawa, the PAS secretary general, is so enraptured by cooperation with the DAP because, he said, it would help that party win seats in the general election.

Haji Nakhaie, a vice president, disapproves of such cooperation but cannot hide the PAS desire to merge with the DAP to seek accord for the election.

In addition, the PAS and its publicity committee often organize meetings with the Chinese and use their publications to explain the PAS goals and ideals.

Haji Hadi, who often lectures around the country, disapproves of a merger with "infidels" and does not deviate from the mandate for a holy war and an Islamic government.

This explains why there is no consolidation of views or agreement among Haji Yusof Rawa, Haji Abdul Hadi, Haji Nakhaie, Haji Fadzil Nor, Haji Hassan Shukri, Haji Nik Aziz, and others. This is also why contradictions arise when the PAS interprets the Koran and the Tradition. This not only deceives the public but creates discontent within society.

Can such an attitude convince the people of the PAS's values of careful inquiry and justice if it is given power to govern? Perhaps the public could give some thought to this!

6804
CSO: 4213/106

MALAYSIA

PAS-DAP MERGER AS ELECTION TACTIC DISCUSSED

Editorial Comment on PAS Tactics

Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 17 Jan 86 p 10

[Text] Politics, a knowledgeable person said, is a way of making the impossible become possible. More precisely, nothing is impossible in politics--a colleague can become an opponent and an enemy can become a friend. With the debates about holding the general election sooner, large and small political parties are busy studying their "fortune-telling books" to find some formula that could improve their prospects. Among the parties that seem to have found some answer to their problems are the PAS [Pan-Malayan Islamic Party] and the DAP [Democratic Action Party]--two of the biggest opposition parties in Parliament at the present time.

Although there is little similarity between these two political parties, other than that they both are opposition parties, they are convinced that a merger could be of use for improving their chances of winning more seats in the coming election. The debates on forming a merger for this election are becoming more intense.

In Baling at the beginning of this week, Haji Yusof Rawa, the PAS president, said his party was studying carefully the offer of a non-Muslim party to aid the PAS prior to the election. He did not name the non-Muslim party although it is public knowledge that the DAP is one of such parties. The secret that Haji Yusof tried to hide was disclosed by Mr Lee Lam Thye, deputy secretary general of the DAP. In Kuala Lumpur last night he said the DAP was discussing the possibility of such a merger with the PAS.

Mr Lee is not only convinced that the merger with the PAS will become fact, but he also believes it will improve the chances of the DAP and the PAS to win more seats in the next election. Several DAP leaders, especially Mr P. Patto assistant deputy secretary general, he said, were actively discussing this possibility with PAS leaders.

Haji Yusof apparently was giving his blessing to this effort when he said that anything was fair in a struggle or war so long as it did not conflict with Islamic law. One can conclude that if the PAS merges with the DAP, a party whose membership generally is composed of Chinese and Indians, the PAS leadership would view this act as not in conflict with Islamic law.

No one should be alarmed about PAS's desire to forge such a merger. It conforms to the PAS strategy of moderation toward non-Muslims which has been employed these past few months. As Haji Yusof admitted, the PAS was intrigued by the non-Malays' reception of the dialogues that have been held to date. From the standpoint of strategy, merging with the DAP is a very appropriate tactic.

The merger would allow them to continue their policy of disagreeing with each other--and at the same time opposing the National Front. The PAS and the DAP, of course, hope this tactic will have an impact on the regions where there are voters who are members of various ethnic groups. In such regions the PAS will attract the Malay votes, and the DAP will attract the non-Malay votes. The PAS or DAP prospects for winning in these regions depend on whether the voters there will follow the ethnic voting pattern.

Other than using this tactic to win the election, the PAS, of course, hopes the merger will improve its image among non-Malays and non-Muslims. The PAS would like to show that it is conducting a policy of tolerance while, at the same time, it struggles to establish Islamic institutions. It will be interesting to note how the PAS will explain this cooperation to Malays because to date it has strongly criticized any cooperation between the UMNO [United Malays National Organization] and the non-Malays.

Since the dialogues were held with non-Malays, several inconsistencies have been observed between the information that was provided to non-Muslims and that provided to Muslims, especially Malays in the rural areas, about PAS's policy and a number of important issues such as the rights of non-Muslims, the consolidation of power, and the ownership of property.

Because PAS's ultimate aim in merging with the DAP for the election is to obtain more power, we may conclude that cooperation between the PAS and the DAP, if it really comes to pass, is a form of power consolidation. The only difference is one of approach. In the end, the impact is the same.

DAP Leader Certain of Accord

Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 16 Jan 86 p 1

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Wednesday [15 January]--Mr Lee Lam Thye, DAP deputy secretary general, is convinced that his party will merge with the PAS for the coming general election.

Mr Lee, who is also a member of Parliament representing the city of Kuala Lumpur, said discussions are being held to reach agreement on a merger.

"We are convinced that an accord will be reached soon," he said, commenting on the PAS proposal to merge with a non-Muslim party for the general election.

Mr Lee said it was felt that merging with the PAS would aid both parties in winning the election in each of the regions.

He said the DAP leadership, especially Mr P. Patto, assistant deputy secretary general, was negotiating with the PAS leaders on that proposal.

For Winning the Election

He was certain that a merger would be achieved with the PAS to ensure a striking victory for the two parties in the general election.

According to Mr Lee, the DAP, in the first phase, was trying to merge with the PAS because it was the major opposition party in Malaysia.

"When the DAP succeeds in this effort, it will study the possibility of merging with other opposition parties."

Mr Lee feels a merger which includes members of other opposition parties should be created to run against the National Front if opposition parties want to win more seats in Parliament.

The DAP, he said, is formulating a strategy that will include merging with other opposition parties to obtain more seats in Parliament.

Mr Lee is certain that by doing so, the party will win an even more striking victory in the coming general election.

6804

CSO: 4213/106

MALAYSIA

3 EXPLOSIONS IN EAST SABAH; 1 KILLED

BK180349 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0342 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Sandakan, Malaysia, March 18 (BERNAMA)--Three explosions went off in this east coast town of the east Malaysian Sabah state Tuesday morning, killing one person.

Another bomb set to go off was defused by police.

Initial reports from police said the victim was a newspaper vendor who was passing by when an explosion went off at a petrol kiosk at about 09:45 MST [0145 GMT].

The vendor who was said to be walking was reported to have died on the spot.

The reports said that the explosions went off within a period of 15 minutes, throwing the whole town into panic.

The first explosion went off at about 09:30 MST at the back portion of an electrical shop, causing serious damage to the building.

The impact of the explosion also caused damage to some shops opposite the back portion of the electrical shop. Two cars were also damaged but initial reports indicated that the damage was not extensive.

About 5 minutes later, a second explosion went off at the back portion of a staircase at one end of a cinema.

The third explosion went off at the petrol kiosk, causing extensive damage to the kiosk, including the fuel pumps.

Four vehicles--three cars and a van--were also damaged.

Police cordoned off the area and fire engines were also put on stand by.

About 10 minutes later, police received a tip-off that a time-bomb was found at a multi-storey car park cum shopping complex.

The timing device was set for 09:00 MST but, according to police, it was not functioning.

Police defused the bomb within half an hour.

Residents at flats nearby the multi-storey complex were evacuated.

Shops and all business centres in the town have closed.

/9599

CSO: 4200/816

MALAYSIA

OFFICIALS ON OPTIONS AFTER TIN AGREEMENT COLLAPSE

BK121025 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0937 GMT 12 Mar 86

["A BERNAMA Special Report" by Bernard Lim]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 12 (BERNAMA)--With the de facto collapse of the International Tin Agreement (ITA), several options are now open to Malaysia, including a domestic price support operation and an enlarged role for the Kuala Lumpur Tin Market (KLTM).

Industry officials said here Thursday [as received] it is now timely for Malaysia--the world's top tin producer and exporter--to consider various plans to look after the interests of its tin industry.

A domestic price support operation was mentioned in an article in MALAYSIAN TIN, published by the Tin Industry (Research and Development) board.

Two officials of the board, Tong Kooi Ong and Kam Cheng Eng, said that under the domestic price support exercise, the government could buy up Malaysian tin production during the 1st year at a reasonable price to maintain production and employment.

They expect the price to go up to 20 ringgit (about 8 U.S. dollars) a kg or higher by the 2d year, depending on the rate of disposal of current tin stocks.

Industry officials said that since Malaysia had agreed to contribute some 90 million ringgit (about 36 million U.S. dollars) towards a rescue package which calls for the setting up of a company to dispose of the International Tin Council's (ITC) stockpile, the money could not be put to better use to mop up locally produced tin.

To prevent dealers buying tin on the international market at a lower price and selling it at a higher price in Malaysia under the price support operation, there should be stringent checks to ensure that no tin is imported into the country, they added.

They also said that for the scheme to succeed, only newly produced tin should benefit from the higher prices.

Meanwhile, Deputy Primary Industries Minister Megat Junid Megat Ayob's announcement that the government intends to amend the KLTM Act to allow foreign traders to trade in the tin market has been welcomed.

Some miners hope that apart from allowing foreign tin to be traded on the market, forward contracts should also be introduced.

On the KLTM today, the tin price dropped 39 sen to 17.49 ringgit (about 7 U.S. dollars) per kg.

Megat Junid said the price drop would be a natural control over future tin production by inefficient mines and a disincentive to new investments in the tin mining industry in non-ITC member countries.

By allowing the ITC to collapse and allowing local miners to take individual action during the present crisis, industry officials said the tin industry would have to face all its ramifications.

Although in financial terms, it will cost Malaysia nothing for this inaction, the effect on the industry will be extremely serious, both Kam and Tong noted in their article.

They estimated that production would fall to less than 10,000 tonnes during the 1st year and foreign exchange revenue to about 190 million ringgit (about 76 million U.S. dollars) from 1984's 1.2 billion ringgit (about 480 million U.S. dollars).

In view of this, Malaysian miners, especially gravel pump miners who form the backbone of the local tin industry, are already bracing themselves for the worst.

According to Hew See Tong, vice-president of the All-Malaya Chinese Mining Association, the next 6 months would be critical for the tin industry as prices continue to slip in view of the uncertainty.

"We can't influence international affairs. This is a period to tighten our belts and to cut costs of production to the minimum to survive," he said.

"We should remain calm and avoid the temptation to sell our tin stocks at any price."

It has been estimated that there are about 120,000 tonnes of tin overhanging the world market. Of this, 85,000 tonnes are held by the ITC.

With the collapse of the rescue plan, he said, the creditors are now free to do whatever they like with the metal that they hold as collateral.

Hew said: "Let us hope that the banks would act rationally by not selling their tin at any price and by releasing their stocks over a gradual period of time as not to hurt the industry."

/9599
CSO: 4200/816

THAILAND

SUA RUNS BEFORE SRUB ATTACKS, THAIS GRANT REFUGE

Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 27 Feb 86 pp 1, 2, 16

[Excerpt] A DAO SIAM reporter in Chiang Rai Province reported that at 1100 hours on 26 February, Police Lt Col Sanya Phiansomphan, the chief inspector at the provincial police station in Mae Chan District, revealed that a report had been received from Border Police Center 5 at Ban Praya Thai in Mae Kham Subdistrict, Mae Chan District, stating that more than 1,000 Ikaw and Shan tribesmen had fled across the Thai-Burmese border and were living at Ban Mo, Mu 24, Mae Kham Subdistrict, 1 km inside Thailand. This has been reported to Police Col Chana Nanthawisai, the police superintendent, and Mr Ruangwit Charucharit, the district officer in Mae Chan District.

Police Col Chana ordered Police Cpt Sarana Sirikomon and Police Sublieutenant Chairat Khumluanlom to take 35 officials from Chiang Rai precinct's special operations unit and intercept the tribesmen. They will be backed up by a group of officials from Border Patrol Police Unit 107 in Mae Chan District led by Police Cpt Sathit Ketanon, the deputy commander of Unit 107.

At 1530 hours on 22 February, elements of the Burmese 66th Division launched an operation against Khun Sa's forces near Mong Kan and Mong Tang Kai. There was a fierce clash. This frightened the people there and so they gathered their belongings and fled into Thailand. Khun Sa's forces were finally forced to retreat. The Burmese forces pursued them to the Thai border and posted 300 men along the border. For this reason, Mr Ruangwit said that he reported this matter to Mr Aram Iamarun, the governor. For the time being, the tribesmen have been granted refuge for humanitarian reasons. Once the fighting dies down, they will be repatriated. If they refuse to return, force will be used. As for Khun Sa's forces, if they flee into Thailand, the BPP and special operations unit will immediately disarm and arrest them, said Mr Ruangwit. DAO SIAM will report further developments as they occur.

11943
CSO: 4207/187

THAILAND

REACTION TO POSSIBLE U.S. BASES CONTINUES

Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 27 Feb 86 pp 34, 35

[Unattributed report: "U.S. Bases in Thailand: Effects of the Turmoil in the Philippines"]

[Excerpt] Air Chief Marshal Phaniang Kantarat, the deputy minister of defense, said the same thing as other senior military officers. He said that many factors would have to be considered before we could allow U.S. military bases to be established in Thailand again. Would other countries view Thailand as a colony of the United States, and would this result in a loss of Thai sovereignty? And what is important is that the United States experienced a "Yankee go home" movement in Thailand once before, and they had to remove their bases. The United States probably remembers that lesson.

A New U.S. Base: Thailand Is Preferable to Titon

The presidential election in the Philippines has had a great effect on the U.S. military bases there. The naval base at Subic Bay and Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines will definitely have to be moved. Mr Robert Dole, the majority leader in the U.S. Senate, has said that the bases will have to be moved because of the great instability in the Philippines.

A military news source told LAK THAI that the United States would rather move its bases to Thailand than to Titon in Asia Minor [sic] or to Guam. The old U.S. base at Utaphao is still usable. It would take only minor repairs to make it fully usable again. However, the problem is that Thailand will probably not allow the United States to establish bases in Thailand again.

Helping Thailand, Plans or No Plans?

The United States knows which way the winds are blowing in the Philippines, a country that it has supported for many years. It knows that the Philippines will experience great turmoil. The target of the United States in this region is Thailand, which is considered to be a strategic point. Even though the United States has a naval base in the Indian Ocean, which is a large base like the one in Hawaii, having a base in Thailand would be preferable to having a base in some other country in this region.

With this target in mind, the United States has constantly supported Thailand. And relations became even closer when Mr Willian A Brown, the new U.S. ambassador to Thailand, replaced Mr John Gunther Dean, the former ambassador.

'Big Shots' From the White House Come to Thailand

Regardless of whether the aim of the United States is to try to secure new bases in Thailand or whether it has some other objective in mind, it is worth noting that during the past few months, particularly since 24 September when Gen Prem Tinsulanon, the prime minister, and his party returned from a UN meeting, a large number of past and present U.S. leaders has visited Thailand. And there has been a constant stream of visitors from the White House.

Mr Nixon, the former president, arrived here in September. After that, Mr George Shultz, the U.S. secretary of state, who plays a leading role in the White House, came here. Then came Mr Richard Armitage, the assistant secretary of defense. After that, Mr Paul Wolfowitz, the assistant secretary of state, and his team arrived. All of these were considered to be "special" visitors to Thailand.

Philippine Election Results Have Increased Chances of the United States Establishing a Base in Thailand

The activities of the senior people from the White House who have visited Thailand have had the effect of strengthening relations between Thailand and the United States, and this has been very good for Thai trade. This is evident from the fact that President Reagan vetoed the Jenkins Bill, for which he is to be applauded.

One political surprise has been the special effort made by the United States to humor Thailand. It has sent groups to Thailand very frequently. During the Philippine election, when things were very tense there, that is, during the period of transition in Manila, Thailand had a chance to welcome another guest from the United States, Mr G. Solomon, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He and his eight-man party met with Gen Prem Tinsulanon and Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila. They discussed the matter of U.S. bases.

A news source from the Government House informed LAK THAI that on 13 February, before Mr Solomon went to see Gen Prem and Air Chief Marshal Sitthi, Mr William A Brown, the U.S. ambassador to Thailand, met with these two Thai leaders and thanked them for their letter of condolence following the Challenger tragedy. The news source said that at the meeting, they also discussed the issue of military bases.

11943
CSO: 4207/178

THAILAND

PAPER CONTINUES CRITICISM OF FARM BILL

Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 11 Feb 86 p 3

[Editorial: "The Effects of the U.S. Law"]

[Excerpts] The United States has promulgated a law to help American farmers even though this will have an adverse effect on its allies. This may be the administration's way of disassociating the United States from the Third-World countries or of winning support among American farmers. This bill states that the "objective is to promote development and to provide credit support to farmers, particularly the medium-sized and small farmers, who are experiencing great problems."

Based on this program, the United States will spend \$52-115 billion, or approximately 1-2 trillion baht, to help the farmers, who account for less than 10 percent of the population of the United States. The United States will pour in technology and reduce production costs. The countries that rely on outmoded methods will be ruined. Thai farmers will definitely be affected because the crops to be promoted by this bill include rice, corn, wheat and cotton, which are Thailand's main crops.

Doesn't the U.S. government realize that agricultural countries such as Thailand have to rely on exporting such crops to the poor countries? Doesn't it know that this will have a great effect on us? Public Law 480 will have a particularly great effect. Exporting surplus goods to underdeveloped countries by giving them credits or giving the goods to them free of charge in order to release American goods helps the Americans.

Promoting exports by giving bonuses or paying compensation to the farmers will have a very serious effect on Thailand and other producers. From whatever angle you look at this, the United States will have the advantage. They grow the same types of crops as we do, such as rice and corn. But our producers use outmoded techniques. American farmers use modern technology and so their yields are larger and production costs are lower. And if they receive support from the government, they will have an even greater advantage.

In response to this, we must do two things: 1. A way must be found to stop them from exporting these goods using PL 480 and to get them to stop supporting their farmers. 2. We must make a greater effort to find permanent markets. We must fight by reducing production costs. We must carry on political activities in order to make the United States see that taking advantage of small and poor countries is not the right choice for the United States if it wants to remain a leader.

THAILAND

PHICHLAI ON DEMOCRAT-ARMY RELATIONS, 1987 POLL

Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPDA in Thai 23 Feb 86 pp 12-14

[Interview with Mr Phichai Rattakun, the leader of the Democrat Party; date and place not specified]

[Excerpts] [Question] Have you decided which people will run for election in the various provinces and zones [in the 1987 election]?

[Answer] We have been able to field candidates for many of the provinces. But there are still many other provinces where we have not been able to do so. The population has increased in many of the provinces and so officials may revise the number of election zones. Thus, we have not been able to determine for sure who will run in those provinces. We will have to wait and see what happens.

[Question] Can you tell us what percentage of the preparations have been completed?

[Answer] It's difficult to measure in percentage terms. Our party is prepared. But you can't say that we are 100 percent prepared. There are several reasons for this. Selecting candidates is a major task. The people selected must have the same political ideals and philosophy as we do. What has gladdened me is that many younger people have come to talk with me about running for election. I am very happy about this. I have talked to both men and women. At the very least, we are more than half prepared.

[Question] Will the military prevent the Democrat Party from growing, particularly in the 1987 election?

[Answer] I do not think that that is the right way to view the military. Soldiers are citizens. I can assure you that neither I nor the Democrat Party have ever viewed the military in that way. We have never thought that the military was trying to do that. That is an erroneous view. I think that the military wants the political institutions to grow regardless of which parties are involved. At the same time, the political institutions want the military to be strong. I have frequently said that the political institutions and the

military must work together for the growth, development and survival of the nation. The political parties are very important to the democratic system, and the same is true of the military.

[Question] What about the military forming a military party?

[Answer] I really don't understand what is meant by a military party. If the party is composed of retired soldiers, I don't see any harm in that. The Democrat Party wants there to be strong political parties. If someone forms a political party, why do people have to say that it is a military party? I don't think that that is being very fair. If people form a political party after they retire, I think that that will help promote democracy. I don't see anything wrong with that. We should be happy about this. We shouldn't try to block them.

[Question] What do you see as the military's role, particularly toward the Democrat Party?

[Answer] I don't want to answer that question. All I will say is that the Democrat Party has never been the enemy of the military. That would be stupid of us because the military is responsible for defending the nation and protecting our sovereignty. How could it be an enemy? The military has very important duties in defending the nation. In the past, many soldiers were members of our party. There are soldiers in the party now, and there will continue to be soldiers in the party. How can people say that the Democrat Party is the enemy of the military? People shouldn't try to make too much of this.

[Question] As for the problem with Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang, the governor of Bangkok Metropolitan, there are some who feel that the Democrat Party is playing a "game" with him.

[Answer] I don't want to discuss this at all. The "game" is over. I don't want to say any more about this. All I will say is that I have frequently told party members and members of the Bangkok Municipal Council and Bangkok Municipal zonal councils that we must cooperate with the legislative sector and the governor, who heads the administrative sector. You can ask any of the members about this. I have always said this. Thus, to say that I am playing games.... I don't want to say any more about this. The matter is closed.

[Question] Have you evaluated the party's role in this? Because this has had a negative effect in the eyes of the people.

[Answer] I don't know whether I have made a mistake or not. I don't understand. I hold the ~~truth~~ to be the most important thing. I can assure you that I have played pol. ~~truth~~ in an honest manner. I have spoken sincerely. I can't help it if others turn this into a major issue. I don't know what to do. I don't know how to solve this problem or prevent this. Speaking the truth is best. I am still ready to cooperate. You can ask the members. Look at what I have said in interviews. I have never lied. However, there are certain matters that I can't discuss. But instead of lying, I will refuse to say anything. If the matter is a secret and my discussing the matter could cause damage, I will refuse to discuss it. That's better than telling a lie. I won't do that. I don't want to discuss this any further. I don't want to get into a confrontation with anyone. I don't want to get into an argument.

THAILAND

ARMY SECRETARY, NORTHEAST MPS DEFEND ATHIT

Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 27 Feb 86 pp 1, 6, 20

[Excerpt] Maj Gen Naritdon Detpradiyut, the secretary of the army, was interviewed on 26 February about the great opposition to granting an extension to Gen Athit Kamlangek, the supreme commander and RTA CINC. He said that the RTA CINC has said that this matter is up to his superior, that is, the minister of defense.

A reporter asked whether the scholars who have voiced opposition to this are interfering. After all, this is a military matter. The army secretary said that in his view, they are interfering. That is his personal view; it is not the view of everyone. It is up to his superior to determine whether an extension should be granted. The RTA CINC has said that if it is felt that granting an extension would be beneficial, he will continue to serve. If he is not granted an extension, he will retire and stay at home. He will live on his retirement pay. That wouldn't pose any problem for him. It depends on what his superior decides. "He has not asked to be granted an extension. The same was true last year. He did not ask to be granted an extension that time either. He was granted an extension because it was felt that he could benefit the country. I don't know what to do about those who have voiced opposition. Gen Athit is not responsible for what has happened."

Maj Gen Naritdon said that Gen Athit has done many things of great benefit to the country. He has developed the military and helped foster better relations with other countries. As for the charges that are being made, the people know what the truth is.

The reporter said that advisors to the prime minister are opposed to granting an extension. The army secretary said that the decision is up to the minister of defense, not the prime minister. He said that he does not know whether the advisors made this recommendation as advisors to the prime minister or as advisors to the minister of defense.

At 1800 hours on 26 February, about 15 Thai Nation, Democrat and National Democracy party MPs from several northeastern provinces went to see Gen Athit Kamlangek, the supreme commander and RTA CINC, at his Kasakomon residence. They stayed until 2130 hours.

Mr Phadungsak Udonphim, a Thai Nation Party MP from Maha Sarakham Province, talked with reporters in his capacity as the group's coordinator. He said that they went to see Gen Athit in order to pay their respects, because Gen Athit served in the northeast for a long time. A reporter asked why they had all gone to see him. Mr Phadungsak said that his group of northeastern MPs feels that Article 103 (7) of the constitution is too strong. After an MP joins a party, he has to remain in that party. He is not free to switch parties. He said that today, northeastern MPs belong to several different parties and so they do not have any bargaining power in order to benefit the northeast. If they can join together, they will have bargaining power and will be able to work for the benefit of the region.

According to Mr Phadungsak, Gen Athit said that he was glad that everyone was working for the people. He said that he had constantly worked for the people. Mr Phadungsak said that his group went to see Gen Athit because they need a supporter with prestige and moral principles, and they feel that Gen Athit is such a person. Also, Gen Athit worked in the northeast for a long time and was sincere toward the people. Gen Athit told the MPs to come inform him if they encountered any obstacles in helping the people. He told them that he would be glad to help in any way that he could.

Mr Sophon Phetsawang, a Democrat MP from Buriram Province, said that when Gen Athit was asked about establishing a party, he said that he was still on active duty and did not want to discuss that. He told them that on 27 February, he will meet with Gen Mana Rattanakoset, the former assistant RTA CINC, and Police Lt Gen Bantaoeng Kampanatsaenyakon, the assistant director-general of the Police Department, to discuss this matter.

Mr Sophon revealed that Gen Athit said that he wished that politicians did not have to use money in running for election. He said that he did not want to dismiss the matter of establishing a party until after he retires. Gen Athit also discussed the extension matter. He said that this must be done based on the law. The person who can talk about this is Gen Prem Tinsulanon, the prime minister. Mr Sophon said that he should not be criticized about this. In the past, many people were granted extensions.

11943

DDI: 4/07/187

THAILAND

COLUMNIST CITES THANAT KHOMAN IN OPPOSING U.S. BASES

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 27 Feb 86 p 3

[Short Fight column by Hoenfa Kindin: "Bases and Thanat Khoman"]

[Excerpts] One of the Philippine problems that has affected Thailand and that is being discussed by many people today is the matter of military bases. Should the United States be allowed to establish bases here again? Two days ago, a SIAM RAT reporter tried to find Mr Thanat Khoman, a former Thai foreign minister, in order to ask him a few questions. But it is not known where he is living. However, an article he wrote more than 10 years ago indicates how he would answer this question.

Around 1963, under pressure from SEATO, the United States sent marines, engineers and air force units to Thailand in order to exert pressure in Laos. When the situation returned to normal, these forces were withdrawn. The United States withdrew its forces at the request of the cabinet. Mr Thanat said that there was nothing secretive about this.

In 1967 when the situation in Vietnam became very serious, many U.S. air force units were again sent to Thailand. According to Mr Thanat, no one in the cabinet knew anything about this, not even the foreign minister. The only ones who knew about this were a few senior military officers. Thailand belongs to all Thai, said Mr Thanat. And so why did only a few people have the power to allow foreign forces to establish bases here? Later on, that had a great effect on the independence and sovereignty of the nation. That is the lesson of 20 years ago.

Some think that having U.S. bases in Thailand will benefit Thailand economically. They should listen to what Mr Thanat had to say about that. Mr Thanat said that the U.S. bases were not built for the use of Thailand. Rather, they satisfied the strategic and military power needs of the United States. He said that if these bases ever became the responsibility of Thailand, they would pose a heavy financial burden for the country.

The American soldiers who lived in Thailand all used American goods, which were imported duty free. These soldiers sent about 60 percent of their pay back home. They did spend the other 40 percent in Thailand. That's true. But they spent most of it to purchase goods imported duty free. They spent much

money on entertainment and sexual pleasures. Mr Thanat said that "I don't think that the majority of Thai are happy about this type of income."

Thus, people should not be fooled by the the propaganda that says that having American soldiers stationed in Thailand will bring hundreds of millions of dollars into the country each year. That is simply not true. The truth is that besides the Americans, the only other people who would benefit from having U.S. bases in Thailand would be a few privileged people. The great majority of the Thai people would not benefit either directly or indirectly.

The United States benefited. But from what Mr Thanat said, even though there was money, it was difficult to find things to purchase. The United States paid so little for the use of the Utaphao base that it can be said that they got the base free of charge. What the United States brought into Thailand was, first, the clouds of the Cold War. Second, we became a tool for the implementation of U.S. policy. Third, this created a terrorist problem in Thailand. Finally, we were drawn into the confrontation between the great powers.

These are the lessons learned from having foreign military bases in the country several years ago. People should remember these things and think about them today. Mr Thanat said that relying on other countries can be very dangerous. In the past, this was referred to as inviting the enemy into the house.

11943
CSO: 4207/187

THAILAND

INTERNAL ARMY CONTROVERSY CONTINUES OVER ATHIT EXTENSION

LAK THAI Analysis

Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 6 Mar 86 pp 18-20

[Unattributed report: "Granting an Extension to Gen Athit, a Tense Situation"]

[Excerpts] There is now much talk about whether Gen Athit Kamlangek will be granted another extension as supreme commander and RTA CINC. This matter has generated much tension in the government and military. At present, the "spearheads" on both sides are carrying on secret activities. They are being much more careful than last year.

Thirty Generals at the Defense Council Meeting

A military news source told LAK THAI that actually, the issue of granting an extension to Gen Athit Kamlangek has generated less interest this year than last year. It is generally thought that Gen Athit will enter politics after 30 September this year. But a Defense Council meeting on 30 January, a regularly scheduled meeting that was chaired by Gen Prem Tinsulanon in his capacity as minister of defense, was attended by 30 generals from the three branches of service (the last issue of LAK THAI, issue 211, reported that the meeting was attended by only 10 officers).

The news source said that among the 30 generals attending the meeting were such well-known people as Gen Prem Tinsulanon, Air Chief Marshal Phaniang Kantarat, Gen Prayun Bunnak and Gen Thawip Satthanon, the representatives from the Ministry of Defense; Gen Chuthai Saengthawip, Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Gen Kamhaeng Chanthawirat and Gen Akkhaphon Somsup, the army representatives; Admiral Niphon Sirithon, Admiral Sunthin Chanthaphakdi and Admiral Sam-ang Krisophon, the navy representatives; Air Chief Marshal Praphan Thupatemi, Air Chief Marshal Thuanthong Yotawut, Air Chief Marshal Chamnan Phatyothin, Air Chief Marshal Wathit Holasut and Air Chief Marshal Phisut Rutthakhani, the air force representatives; and Gen Banchop Bunnak, Gen Wasitthaphon Wongthai, Gen Krit Chicharoen, Gen Banthit Amatyakun and Gen Prathiap Thetwisan, the representatives from Supreme Command Headquarters. The only lieutenant general at the meeting was the secretary to the minister of defense.

"There was nothing very important on the agenda and so one army general raised his hand and said that there was an urgent matter that should be discussed by the Defense Council. Gen Prem asked whether it was very urgent. The general said that it was. Gen Prem told him to go ahead and submit the matter. He then brought up the issue of granting an extension to Gen Athit, which was not on the agenda that day," said the same news source. He said that after this general raised this issue, the others were left speechless for a moment. Gen Prem said that that was not really an urgent matter and that there were several months left before a decision had to be made. He said that this could be discussed at a later time.

Sua Yai, the Second Wave

"It was not only officers from the special combat divisions who visited Gen Prem. A few days later, Lt Gen Phichit Kunlawanit, the 1st Army Region commander, and other officers from the 1st Army Region visited Gen Prem at his Sisao residence. But this visit was made very secretly. This was not reported in the press," said the military news source.

The fact that Big Sua and other officers from the 1st Army Region quietly went to see Gen Prem is very interesting. Because after the events of 9 September, Lt Gen Phichit was "driven into a corner" and had to lie low. He kept a low profile and did not come forward to oppose the political currents. This helped improve his position to the point where there have been reports that the "Year of the Tiger will be the year of Big Sua," as LAK THAI predicted in issue 211. This is because his relations with Gen Prem have improved.

If the Votes Are There, a Resolution Will Be Passed

The issue of granting an extension to Gen Athit was raised at the Defense Council meeting, but it was not considered to be an "urgent matter." However, the time is coming closer and closer. Because if an extension is not granted by June, Gen Athit's chances of being granted an extension will be very small. Thus, those who are carrying on activities secretly and openly for or against an extension must step up their activities in order to get past June, the month that will decide the issue.

The news source said that if there continues to be great interest in this issue in the military, one way out would be to have the Defense Council vote on whether to grant an extension. This is something well worth watching. Because if a resolution to grant an extension is voted on by the Defense Council and if the voting is done openly, it is believed that those who favor granting an extension will win. But if the voting is by secret ballot, it is thought that those opposed to granting an extension will win.

Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai 26 Feb-4 Mar 86 pp 10-13

[Unattributed report: "The 18 February Operation, the Secret Agreement Between CRMA Class 1 and Prem"]

[Excerpts] On the morning of 18 February, everyone in the country became very alarmed when the Voice of Thailand Radio, Department of Public Relations, interrupted its 0700 hour radio program. Almost everyone thought the same thing when the radio stations began playing music, interrupting the news broadcast for about 30 minutes.

But after about 30 minutes, everything returned to normal when the Voice of Radio Thailand resumed its regular program. It was said that this interruption was due to technical problems and not some other problem.

But that same morning, the intense political game being played in power circles entered a new phase when more than 20 senior officers from the special forces divisions came from Lopburi Province to visit Gen Prem Tinsulanon, the prime minister, at his Sisao residence. These officers said that they made the visit to convey New Year's wishes to the prime minister. This reason puzzled people in general, including Gen Sitthi Chirarot, the minister of interior, who couldn't help from remarking that these New Year's greetings were very belated.

The 18 February Operation, Support From CRMA Class 1

At 0830 hours on 18 February, Lt Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, the commander of the Special Warfare Command, a crack combat unit that is the equivalent of an army region and that is sometimes referred to as the "5th Army Region," and other senior officers from this unit went to Prem's Sisao residence. Lt Gen Sunthon said that they had come from Lopburi to wish the prime minister a happy New Year. They had not had a chance to do so at the beginning of the year.

When reporters asked him whether they had come in order to support the government on some issue, the 5th Army Region commander denied that, saying that this did not concern supporting the government. When reporters asked whether he and Gen Prem had discussed granting an extension to Gen Athit Kamlangk, the supreme commander and RTA CINC, the 5th Army Region commander said that that matter does not concern him because he is just a subordinate. That is an issue for his superiors to decide.

However, a high-level military news source who is a member of CRMA Class 1, the class of the 5th Army Region commander, said that the important thing that happened at the meeting was that Lt Gen Sunthon told Gen Prem that he would support him fully regardless of what decision he made on today's important issue, that is, granting an extension to a senior officer.

"Lt Gen Sunthon voiced support for what Gen Prem had said at the Defense Council meeting. At that meeting, Gen Prem said that this matter should be

considered very carefully based on what is proper and suitable. That day, he left the meeting early, saying that he did not want to take part in discussing this matter," said the news source.

A colonel said that rumors have appeared because this is a transition period in which the government must make decisions on several important issues, including granting amnesty to the 9 September rebels, which is affecting things in general, and granting an extension to Gen Athit. Certain groups of officers are doing everything they can to secure a second extension for him. At the same time, the government is confronted by major economic problems, including the matter of increasing the tax on vehicles that use diesel and gas, which is opposed by many people and MPs, and the matter of reducing oil prices.

"Besides confirming that Class 1 officers do not support granting an extension, the action taken by these officers is a warning to others," said a regimental commander.

The column Deep Down, which appears in a major newspaper, discussed this visit by "Big Chot," or Lt Gen Sunthon. It said that "nobody lit a cigarette because no one had a lighter." At present, officers from several classes are preparing to visit Gen Prem and pay their respects to him. Si Sao is ready to welcome them on the condition that "no one lights a cigarette while they are there."

The 5th Army Region Commander, the Vanguard of CRMA Class 1

Even though the Special Warfare Command was officially established only a few years ago, the foundation for the establishment of this special combat unit was already in place. That is, it was formed from the special paratroop unit, or Pa Wai unit, at the Special Warfare Center in Lopburi.

The Special Warfare Command is equivalent to an army region even though it is not yet up to full strength. The unit presently has two special combat divisions under its command. Almost all of the commanders, such as the divisional and regimental commanders, are officers worth watching. This includes such men as Maj Gen Khachon Ramanwong and Col Surayut Chulanon. Even Maj Gen Wimon Wonwanit, the commander of the 1st Division, was transferred from a special combat division.

Lt Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, the commander of the Special Warfare Command, is a member of CRMA Class 1. He is thought to be very close to a fellow classmate who is very important, that is, Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut. Classmates of his say that if Gen Chawalit becomes the RTA CINC, he will definitely need someone like Lt Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong to serve as assistant RTA CINC.

In terms of seniority, Lt Gen Sunthon was promoted to lieutenant general in October 1984. He could be promoted to full general and appointed to that position without any problem. That would not bypass any steps.

What is important is that Lt Gen Sunthon is viewed as a professional soldier. As the commander of the 5th Army Region, he has great prestige in the military. No one views him as a political soldier. This was probably the reason why Lt Gen Sunthon was chosen to visit Gen Prem on this occasion.

One member of CRMA Class 1 said that "this will probably have a great effect because it was not a visit by a political soldier. The visit showed support for the prime minister based on principle. It was an expression of support by a professional soldier whose close subordinates command several important army units."

Looking more closely at the principles of CRMA Class 1 as reflected by the action taken against granting another extension, it can be said that this reflects the feeling of professional officers in general, who feel that granting a second extension will create a bad image for their "boss," or Gen Athit Kamlangk. They feel that a second extension would be "too much." The matter has been discussed widely in all circles.

The same member of CRMA Class 1 said that Gen Athit has not done anything to show that he wants to be granted another extension. This is just a movement on the part of certain soldiers. As far as Gen Athit is concerned, if he is granted another extension, he is prepared to continue serving the military. But if he is not granted an extension, he is ready to retire from military service.

Another reason for CRMA Class 1 that cannot be overlooked is that if Gen Athit is not granted another extension, the "golden age" of CRMA Class 1 will have arrived. Because at present, in addition to Gen Chawalit, who is waiting his turn to become RTA CINC, many other members of CRMA Class 1 are in line for important positions. This includes the 5th Army Region commander, Lt Gen Wanchai Ruangtrakun, the deputy army chief of staff who is ready to become army chief of staff, and Lt Gen Charuai Wongwayan, the assistant army chief of staff for civil affairs. Others who are still junior in terms of time in rank but who now hold important positions include Lt Gen Ngamphon Nutsathit, the assistant army chief of staff for intelligence, Lt Gen Kasem Sanguanchatisonkrai, the assistant army chief of staff for logistics, and Lt Gen Wichai Phoemsap, the army controller. All of these men are members of CRMA Class 1.

It seems that most members of CRMA Class 1 feel that Big Chiu has great trust in Big Chot and regards him as a straightforward man in the manner of a professional soldier. At the same time, it is said that another classmate, Lt Gen Wanchai Ruangtrakun, is just as "jeep" as Big Chiu. Thus, Big Chiu may not have full confidence in this officer or feel that he understands him fully. Besides this, one of the officers closest to Gen Athit has been Lt Gen Wanchai Ruangtrakun.

What is more, Big Chiu has great confidence in Big Chot because he is a very resolute and decisive person and has much command experience, which is an important qualification that will enable him to hold the position of assistant RTA CINC as a partner of Lt Gen Phienit, or "Big Sua." But everyone knows what kind of "partners" they will be.

Defense Council Meeting, Athit Aide

Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai 12-18 Feb 86 pp 10-13

[Unattributed report: "Behind the Secret Resolution, the Defense Council Retreats on Granting an Extension to Athit"]

[Excerpts] A secret rumor that spread among senior military officers and politicians last week stated that at a recent meeting, the Defense Council passed a resolution to grant another extension to Gen Athit Kamlangk, the supreme commander and RTA CINC. It was said that several generals, particularly the chief of staff officers and the deputy RTA CINC, played a major role in this. It was also rumored that the army chief of staff, who is next in line for the top army position, played a role, too.

However, this was followed by another rumor that said that Gen Prem Tinsulanon, in his capacity as minister of defense, declined to "participate in the discussion on this" at the Defense Council meeting. This is a good indication that the matter is far from settled. Amidst all the rumors about "granting an extension," it is impossible to reach a definite conclusion about what will happen. But this does show that there is again great activity concerning this issue.

Keep an Eye on Chuthai and Banchop

When rumors about granting another extension to Gen Athit first began appearing in various circles, three generals were mentioned. It was said that Gen Banchop Bunnak, the chief of staff officers, Gen Chuthai Saengthawip, the deputy RTA CINC, and Gen Chawalit Yongchayut, the army chief of staff, were making preparations to secure an extension for the supreme commander and RTA CINC and that they did not foresee any "obstacles."

During that period, several of SU ANAKHOT's news sources all said that the rumors about these activities were not true. They said that this was just an attempt to spread rumors to counter all the rumors to the effect that an extension would not be granted.

A new source in the army said that the rumors that no extension will be granted are probably true. People near Gen Prem and people who hold important positions have all said that even a senior and respected person like Gen Prem "was granted only a 1-year extension."

However, the same news source did say that people should keep an eye on Gen Banchop and Gen Chuthai in the coming period because there is evidence that they really have made preparations to take action on this.

Behind the Secret Defense Council Resolution

A report that has been confirmed by several factions states that the Defense Council held a meeting on 30 January. The meeting was chaired by Gen Prem Tinsulanon in his capacity as minister of defense. The matter of granting an

extension to the supreme commander and RTA CINC was brought up at the meeting by Gen Chuthai Saengthawip. Gen Banchop Bunnak immediately voiced his support for this.

SU ANAKHOT's news source said that when this matter was brought up at the meeting, Gen Prem, who was chairing the meeting, asked everyone to consider this matter based on what is proper and appropriate. He said that he did not want to take part in the discussion and then left the meeting. After Gen Prem left the meeting, Gen Chuthai took over as chairman of the meeting. They discussed granting an extension to Gen Athit and passed a resolution to have the military take action on this based on the law.

"Actually, the military clearly showed that it favored granting a 2-year extension to Gen Athit. It recommended that last year. But the law states that the cabinet can grant extensions for only 1 year at a time. Thus, there was little doubt that the military would recommend that the cabinet grant another extension. They wanted a 2-year extension granted last year," said an officer who was not surprised by the fact the senior officers persisted in calling for an extension even though this bothered important people at the meeting.

The Army's Image and the Extension

"As for Gen Athit, it depends on the military resolution and the prime minister. If they grant him an extension, he is ready to continue serving. But if he is not granted an extension, he will retire. As for the rumors about a movement to secure an extension, that is the affair of certain officers. Gen Athit is not involved," said an officer close to Gen Athit. This statement seems to explain the timing of Gen Athit's trip abroad. He went abroad just when these rumors began to appear.

Based on interviews with officers at various levels, it can be concluded that battalion commanders are the ones who are actively trying to secure an extension for Gen Athit. On the other hand, most divisional commanders are taking a "wait and see" attitude. That is, they are not participating in the movement. If the movement becomes very strong, they will support it. But if it doesn't, they will not exert any effort to secure an extension.

Battalion commanders favor granting an extension because they are afraid that if Gen Athit has to give up his positions, this could lead to a change in the balance of power that could affect them.

Senior officers who have worked closely with Gen Athit, most of whom are due to retire this October, are playing a major role in trying to secure an extension for Gen Athit. The reason for this is that they feel that the political base that is being built for Gen Athit and their group is still weak. In particular, preparations for establishing a political party, with Gen Mana Rattanakoset, the former assistant RTA CINC and a fellow member of APS Class 5, taking the lead in establishing the party, have not been completed. Some feel that Gen Athit should automatically step into the top political position after he retires from the military rather than having to run for election to the House.

According to their plan, this political party will serve as a base of support to enable Gen Athit to leave his military position and immediately step into a political position without having to run for election.

JPRS-SEA-86-057
1 April 1986

CHINA LAND

PRC PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR VISIT

BK080237 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Mar 86 p 2

[Excerpts] A delegation of 16 Chinese political advisors arrived here last evening on a tightly-scheduled 9-day visit which includes an audience with HRH Princess Kanlayani Watthana, a courtesy call on Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon and meetings with leaders of major political parties.

The delegation is led by Lu Zhengcao, deputy chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. The team is scheduled to meet Parliament President Ukrit Mongkhonnavin and House Speaker Uthai Phimchaichon.

Deputy House Speaker Piyanat Watcharaphon received the delegation at Don Muang airport and later, Uthai hosted a dinner for the delegates at the Ambassador Hotel last night.

The team will today travel to Phuket and Phang-nga where Deputy Agriculture Minister Barom Tanthian will host a dinner for the delegates.

The delegates will meet Deputy Prime Minister and Social Action leader ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi Sawetsila at 9:15 am at the Foreign Ministry Thursday [13 March].

At about 11 am, they will see Deputy Prime Minister and Democrat leader Phichai Rattakun at the party headoffice on Setsiri Road. At about 11:50 am Thursday, the Chinese delegates will call on opposition Chat Thai leader Maj Gen Praman Adireksan at his Phahonyothin residence and at about 2 pm, they will pay a courtesy call on Gen Prem at the Government House.

The team will host a meal for Thai parliamentarians at the Chinese Embassy on Friday and leave for China on Saturday.

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CSO: 4200/818

THAILAND

TIME BOMB DEFUSED AT PROVINCIAL TOWN HALL

BK180549 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] Nakhon Si Thammarat--Police yesterday morning successfully defused a powerful time-bomb planted at the provincial hall only 10 minutes before it was timed to go off.

The bomb, which was contained in a cardboard box, was planted at the entrance of the Office of the Internal Security Operation Command which is located on a wing of the provincial hall.

Two defence volunteers who guarded the building noticed the box at about 11 pm of Sunday and alerted their superiors as well as the police.

Police officers from a special action unit managed to defuse the bomb which contained 138 sticks of dynamite only about 10 minutes before it was set to go off at 2 am yesterday morning. Police said the bomb was powerful enough to destroy the whole building.

Police still have no idea who planted the bomb and what the motive was.

Meanwhile, Deputy Interior Minister Wira Muksikaphong said the officials still could not rule whether or not the bomb had been planted by members of the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT).

Governor Anek Sitthiprasat, however, said he did not believe that it was the work of the CPT because the government forces had successfully put an end to the military activities of the illegal party in the province.

He said security at all government offices was stepped up after the incident.

Lt Gen Wanchai Chitchamnong, commander of the 4th Army Region, also said that the bomb might have been planted by some agitators aiming to create disturbances during the opening of the Army Games which is scheduled this afternoon.

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CSO: 4200/818

THAILAND

ATHIT SAYS TIME BOMB NOT WORK OF COMMUNISTS

BK190318 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Mar 86 p 3

[Excerpt] Supreme Commander Gen Athit Kamlang-ek said yesterday the planting of the time-bomb in the provincial hall of Nakhon Si Thammarat on Sunday was not the work of communist insurgents.

He said it was initially believed to have been a result of some conflicts. He said authorities concerned were investigating the incident but he did not elaborate.

Deputy Education Minister Samphan Thongsamak, who is an MP of the southern province, said he believed the bomb was meant to be an intimidation.

He said the fact that the bomb was timed to go off at 2 am in the morning meant that it was not designed to cause casualties.

The bomb, comprising 138 sticks of dynamite, was found at the entrance of the office of the internal Security Operation Command (ISOC) late Sunday morning.

The bomb was found only 2 days before the opening of the army sport games in the province. The event was presided over by Gen Athit yesterday.

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CSO: 4200/818

THAILAND

VOFA REPORTS GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON TIN CRISIS

BK140757 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1900 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Thailand on 10 March rejected the rescue plan for the International Tin Council, (ITC), dealing a heavy blow to the efforts to resolve the world tin crisis. Following is the Thai Government statement reasoning its rejection of the ITC plan:

Since the tin crisis, the Thai Government has been sincere in cooperating with other members of the ITC in the search for its long-term solution, including the establishment of Tinco Limited and its draft memorandum of understanding, based on the following principles:

1. Participation of All Parties Involved

It is imperative that all parties concerned, in particular non-ITA [International Tin Agreement] producing countries, must participate in the efforts in the search for a long-term solution to the crisis. However, a close examination of the contents of the draft memorandum of understanding shows that the involvement of non-ITA producing countries has not been taken into account. Thailand, therefore, urges that these countries also participate in the establishment of Tinco. It should be recalled that since the Sixth International Tin Agreement came into force on a provisional basis, the non-ITA producing countries have been reaping enormous benefits without having to make any contribution to the buffer stock fund and without having been subjected to export control. Thus the non-ITA producing countries have been enjoying a relative high and stable price of tin. On the other, the ITA members for the last 3 and 1/2 years have lost their market shares due to the export control measures and have had to make substantial contributions to the buffer stock fund. Therefore, Thailand believes that the establishment of Tinco Limited without the participation and financial contributions of the non-ITA producing countries would not lead to a long lasting solution to the tin crisis and to the realization of the objectives set forth in the memorandum of understanding.

2. Equitable Sharing of Contributions

The participation of non-ITA producing countries will lead to the reduction of the equity contributions of the ITA member countries. It is imperative to

note that the amount of contributions of each member country should take into account its previous contributions made under the fifth and sixth agreements. The present equity contribution formula is deemed to be totally unfair to Thailand, which has in good faith made cash contributions to both the fifth and the sixth buffer stock funds, unlike some other countries which had transferred tin metal from the fifth to the sixth buffer stock.

In conclusion, Thailand cannot accept this memorandum of understanding for the establishment of Tinco Limited in its present form because of the lack of participation of all parties involved and inequitable equity contributions. However, it is our conviction that all parties involved should search for a long lasting solution to the tin crisis based on the above-mentioned principles. Thailand will always maintain its willingness to cooperate with all parties in the search for an outcome acceptable to all.

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CSO: 4200/818

THAILAND

INDUSTRY MINISTER COMMENTS ON TIN COUNCIL DEBT

BK130044 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Mar 86 p 17

[Excerpt] Thailand yesterday indicated that it would not be responsible for the 900-million pound debts incurred by the 22-nation International Tin Council (ITC) of which it is a member.

The statement of refusal came from Industry Minister Dr Chirayu Itsrangkun na Ayutthaya as the prospect of a flood of lawsuits opened up against the council over its huge debts.

Dr Chirayu said, "We are only responsible for what we have financially contributed to ITC. Just like being a shareholder in a company, you are only obliged to the money you put into it."

Thailand, the world's third largest tin producer, would be responsible for about 97.83 million pound of ITC's debts to creditor banks and brokers. The figures are based on Thailand's 21.74 percent voting right in ITC. The huge debts were to have been equally shared by ITC's six producing member states and 17 consuming members.

The minister's statement came one day after the Thai Government had officially informed ITC's creditors of its rejection of the rescue package which involved the creation of a company to take over ITC's 85,000-ton tin stockpile and sell it off over a 4-year period to meet its substantial debts.

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CSO: 4200/818

THAILAND

EDITORIAL SUPPORTS GOVERNMENT STAND ON TIN

BK120115 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Mar 86 p 18

[BUSINESS POST editorial: "The Tin Drum Goes Off a Beat"]

[Text] Thailand has with Indonesia sounded the death knell for the born-again tin brokers in London who were so close to a solution they could taste it. But as the Thai statement eloquently rejected participation, it in effect was saying that the emperor is wearing no clothes, the emperor being no other than the Moribund International Tin Council (ITC).

As the statement put it, "Thailand believes that the establishment of Tinco Ltd. without the participation and financial contribution of the non-ITA [International Tin Agreement] producing countries would not lead to a long-lasting solution to the tin crisis and to the realisation of the objectives as set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding." Well put and very to the point.

It was not an easy decision to make. But the brokers in London have no one to blame but themselves for the debacle their manipulations produced. There is mounting evidence to suggest that the wheeling and dealing that erupted into the present crisis strayed radically from the terms of the International Tin Agreement.

It is an accepted principle of British contract law that once the terms of a contract are violated fundamentally, the contract can be deemed to be breached and therefore, null and void. Not only is the ITC null. It is now very much void.

Legality of what went on in London will be the subject of future headlines as Shearson Lehman Metals Ltd., has filed suit in the High Court of London against the Metal Market and Exchange Co. Ltd., (LME). They claim that the actions taken by the Exchange disregarded the true market value of tin. The setting of an artificial settlement price by the LME which did not conform to the metal's real value is according to the Shearson Lehman claim, a breach of the tin contracts Shearson held.

Thailand has rightly decided to protect its own flanks as the genies in London are crying the blues about fickle tin producers not playing fair. Fairness is

very much in the eyes of the beholder. And from the Bangkok perspective, tin's plunge to record lows is the fairest indicator around of what the tin market wants. And persisting in this last ditch effort to hold back natural market forces was doomed to failure from the beginning. It is only too bad that some brokers will get their fingers burned.

As Thailand also pointed out, with huge tin producers like Brazil and Bolivia unwilling to cooperate, the ITC and its latest progeny, Tinco Ltd., can never hope to do the job for which they were created. The entire world is rejoicing right now as the OPEC cartel tries to outpump Britain, Norway, and Mexico. But OPEC is not opening up the sluices so that American consumers can enjoy gas-guzzling cars again. It is hoping to drive the prodigals to the brink of insolvency. And thereby to get them to cooperate with OPEC for a shared return of the oil market.

The ITC is certainly no OPEC. One big reason is that tin is not oil. Tin is already experiencing declining demand as substitutes are employed. Plastic, aluminium, and even cardboard are all being used as tin replacements. If anything the collapse in tin prices could halt this reversion to substitutes. And even now there is an estimated inventory of tin sufficient to keep the world in tin for at least 2 years.

The ITC is the only attempt at a metals cartel so far attempted. And its example has probably deterred anyone from attempting other similar arrangements for years to come.

Nevertheless the world economy is still saddled with cartels of one form or another even as the forces of deregulation and de-monopolisation gain ascendancy. In many ways the spirit of protectionism, erecting national regulations to keep imports down is a form of cartel-making.

National cartels or international in the case of common markets like the European Economic Community (EEC) farmers in Africa could easily out-price European farmers if given half a chance. [sentence as published] Instead they are not only kept out of the huge European beef market. They even have to compete against cheap European beef exports which are only cheap because the EEC subsidises its farmers.

Thus for some Europeans who are very adept at guarding their own interests to the detriment of their poorer African neighbours to the south, it should not be difficult to understand why a nation like Thailand opts for protecting its own tin industry.

Certainly the Thai and Indonesian rejection of the plan in London came at an inopportune time for the ITC scrambling for a solution. But someone had to stand up and say enough is enough. In fact, as far as what Thailand would have to cough up to regenerate the Buffer Stock Fund, enough was not enough. It was just too much.

But the brokers as they lick their wounds and brace for tomorrow's mud-slinging match over unfair producers should read the last two sentences of Thailand's policy statement carefully. "However it is our conviction that all parties involved should search for a long-lasting solution to the tin crisis based on the above-mentioned principles."

The principles [words indistinct] of contribution, fairer assessment of export-control measures, and involvement of all tin producers in any future agreement. If these principles are accepted and put into effect by the metal boys in London, then as the government so graciously concluded, "Thailand will always maintain its willingness to cooperate with all parties in the search for an outcome acceptable to all."

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CSO: 4200/818

THAILAND

BRIEFS

SAP DRIVE FOR BUNCHU CHAIRMANSHIP--Mr Drong Singtothong, a Social Action Party MP from Chonburi, revealed that at present, a number of SAP MPs have divided into two groups in order to gather signatures to call on Mr Bunchu Rotchanasathian, the former deputy leader of the SAP, to become a party leader again. Mr San Urunothai, an MP from Khon Kaen, is the head of one team. Mr Chanchai Chairungruang, an MP from Maha Sarakham, is the head of the other team. To date, more than 20 MPs have signed the petition. Mr Drong and most of the MPs from the eastern region have signed. It is expected that at least 50 MPs will sign the petition, which will be submitted to the acting party leader. [Text] [Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai 19-25 Feb 86 pp 6, 7] 11943

SEPARATISTS ON MALAYSIA BORDER--Police Maj Gen Phingphan Netrangsi, the deputy commissioner of the Provincial 4, said that PULO and the BRN are still active in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat provinces. They are demanding protection money from Thai Buddhists and Chinese. Besides this, these two groups are still carrying on political operations. They have established several more schools to teach Islamic studies. They have expanded their mass activities and infiltrated the Dawah movement. However, these are just initial operations. Police Maj Gen Phingphan said that the two groups have sent Thai Moslems to several countries in the Middle East to receive training in terrorist methods. Those sent usually hold dual citizenship, and most are from the Thai-Malaysian border area. They travel to the Middle East via Malaysia. From what is known, several groups have been sent. Police Maj Gen Phingphan said that the Chinese communist guerrillas are not very active in Thailand now. They just hide along the border. There have not been any clashes with Thai military forces. As for the reports that the various bandit terrorist groups will unite to form a single group with the BNPP serving as leader, this group has received support from abroad, but PULO and the BRN will probably not enter into any alliance with this group. This is because the BNPP is almost finished as a movement. [Text] [Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 11 Feb 86 p 2] 11943

REACTION TO LOW RICE PRICES--Mr Prarom Buasali, the chairman of the central committee of the Farmers' Group of Thailand, talked with SIAM RAT about today's paddy prices. He said that prices are even lower than at the beginning of the season. Paddy is now selling for 1,600-2,400 baht per kwian [1 kwian equals 2,000 liters]. Even though prices are so low, it is still difficult to find buyers. Mr Prarom said that the real problem today is not poverty. The farmers can always find enough to eat. Debt is the real problem. Mr Prarom put much of the blame on the politicians. He said that "today, no one is fighting on behalf of the farmers. Once they have gotten what they want, the politicians, regardless of whether they belong to a government or an opposition party, show no concern at all. Fortunately, the farmers have not become the tool of the politicians in some protest movement." He said that farmer representatives will ask to meet with the two ministers concerned, that is, Mr Narong Wongwan, the minister of agriculture, and Mr Surat Osathanukhro, the minister of commerce, in order to determine whether there is any hope left for farmers. [Text] [Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 27 Feb 86 pp 1, 12] 11943

TIES WITH 8 CARIBBEAN NATIONS--Thailand is to establish diplomatic ties with eight Caribbean island nations after the Cabinet gave its approval to the Foreign Ministry yesterday. The eight countries are Antigua-Barbuda, Barbados, the Bahamas, Dominica, Haiti, St Christopher-Nevis, St Lucia, and St Vincent-Grenadines. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Mar 86 p 3]
/9599

CSO: 4200/818

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE, AND AID

TRAN QUYNH LEADS DELEGATION TO OLOF PALME FUNERAL

OW170745 Hanoi VNA in English 0727 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Hanoi, VNA March 17--The Vietnamese Government delegation led by Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Tran Quynh, representing Chairman Pham Van Dong, on March 15 attended the funeral of the late Swedish Premier Olof Palme in Stockholm.

It had arrived in Stockholm on March 13 with a wreath from Chairman Pham Van Dong bearing the inscription: "Profound homage to Prime Minister Olof Palme, a great and esteemed friend of the Vietnamese people."

The Vietnamese delegation has called on several cabinet ministers and other senior officials of the Swedish Government. Vice Chairman Tran Quynh conveyed to Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson the profound condolences of the Vietnamese Government and people, and Chairman Pham Van Dong's warm congratulations to the new Swedish prime minister.

While receiving Vice Chairman Tran Quynh, Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson said: "We highly appreciate the presence of a high-level Vietnamese Government delegation representing Chairman Pham Van Dong at the funeral. The late Premier Olof Palme and Chairman Pham Van Dong worked tirelessly to foster cooperative relations between the two countries. We pledge to do our utmost to preserve these fine relations. We all have the task to fight for an eternal peace on this planet of ours."

On March 14, the Vietnamese delegation was warmly welcomed at the office of the Vietnam-Laos-Kampuchea Committee of Sweden.

The delegation left Stockholm for home on March 16.

/6662
CSO: 4200/813

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE, AND AID

PHAM VAN DONG PAYS TRIBUTE TO OLOF PALME

OW141544 Hanoi VNA in English 1509 GMT 14 Mar 86

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 14--"Olof Palme was a staunch fighter for great causes" stated chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong in an exclusive interview with VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY today. Paying tribute to the late prime minister of Sweden whose funeral will be held in Stockholm tomorrow, Chairman Pham Van Dong said:

"The Vietnamese people and the people of many other countries in the world learnt with deep shock and boundless grief the news of the assassination on the final day of Feb. 1986, of the prime minister of Sweden, Olof Palme, a great son of the Swedish people, a great friend of the Vietnamese people and a staunch fighter for great causes: the independence and freedom of the oppressed nations, the right to equality and all-round development of the countries in the Third World, and the defence of peace which is the ardent aspiration of each and every human being on our planet.

A loyal friend with profound feelings for the Vietnamese people, Prime Minister Olof Palme had extended to them his precious support and assistance. He was one of the first Western statesman to come out strongly against the criminal war of the United States against Vietnam. The Vietnamese people will never forget that nearly twenty years ago, Olof Palme, holding a torch in his hand, led a march of Swedes to collect signatures for the "manifestation of the entire Swedish people" resolutely demanding that the U.S. stop that unjust war.

After the war ended, with profound sympathy with the Vietnamese people for their losses in the war and their difficulties in peaceful reconstruction, Olof Palme again became an active initiator and executor of the Swedish assistance to the Vietnamese people in their efforts to heal the wounds of war and to build a new life. The projects already built in Vietnam with the wholehearted assistance of Sweden have left and will leave fine impressions in the mind of the Vietnamese people, about a man with a magnanimous and lofty conscience, and about the Swedish people as a whole.

A close friend of the people of the Third World, Olof Palme supported with a deep sense of respect and confidence their struggle for independence, freedom,

social progress and all-round development. Olof Palme has contributed a great deal to the building and development of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the developed and developing countries. This will be remembered forever by the people of the Third World.

A courageous and persistent fighter for peace, Olof Palme tirelessly struggled for a world without arms race, without the danger of a nuclear war, a world of peace and friendship between nations. The sense of grief is even greater when we learnt that on the morning of Feb. 28--the day he was assassinated--Olof Palme signed the joint message of the leaders of the six countries parties to the New Delhi statement calling for the continued moratorium on all nuclear tests by the Soviet Union and the United States until the coming summit conference between these two countries.

In these sorrowful moments, on behalf of the government and people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, I convey to the government and people of Sweden our most heartfelt sentiments. We shall remember forever the image of Olof Palme and his immortal contributions whose death has made him immortal.

/6662
CSO: 4200/813

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE, AND AID

BRIEFS

HONECKER MEETS SRV ENVOY--Hanoi VNA March 17--Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and president of the Council of State of the German Democratic Republic, visited the Vietnamese pavilion at the Leipzig spring fair on the opening day yesterday. Besides traditional handicraft articles such as lacquer, woolen tapestry, pottery, natural rubber and wicker-works, two new products, mother-of-pearl engraved lacquer and canned mangosteen are on display. The GDR leader was warmly received by Vietnamese Ambassador to the GDR Tran Hoai Nam. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1523 GMT 17 Mar 86 OW] /6662

UN SESSION ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS--Hanoi VNA March 17--"The Vietnamese Government's policy is to liberate women, achieve equality between women and men and carry out all laws and regulations aimed at ensuring women's rights," said Mrs Nguyen Binh Thanh at the annual session of the United Nations Committee of the Convention on the Prohibition of Discrimination Against Women held recently in New York. Mrs Binh Thanh, on behalf of the Vietnamese delegation at the UN, delivered a report of the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the implementation of the convention in Vietnam, laying stress on the role of women in the resistance wars against aggression and in all spheres of social life, particularly in the fields of education and public health of which women occupy 80 per cent of the staff. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0732 GMT 17 Mar 86 OW] /6662

MONGOLIAN YOUTH DELEGATION VISIT--Hanoi VNA March 17--Le Quang Dao, secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, received here today the visiting delegation of the Revolutionary Youth League of Mongolia led by Tsgerendorjyn Narangerel, first secretary. Also present at the reception were Vu Mao, member of the CPV CC and first secretary of the executive committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, and Mongolian Ambassador to Vietnam Gelegiyn Adiyaa. Le Quang Dao expressed sincere thanks to the party, the people and youth of Mongolia for their strong support to the Vietnamese people in their national construction and defence. Tsgerendorjyn Narangerel expressed the wish to further strengthen and develop the cooperation and friendship between the two youth organizations in the struggle for peace, friendship and security in Asia, the Pacific and the world. An agreement on cooperation in the 1986-90 period between the two organizations was signed the same day. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1525 GMT 17 Mar 86 OW] /6662

GREETINGS TO MADAGASCAR--Hanoi VNA March 18--The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam has sent its warm greetings to the Vanguard Party of the Madagascan Revolution (AREMA) on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. The message praised "the ARMEA under the leadership of Secretary General Didier Ratsiraka for its achievements in gradually eliminating the aftermath of the colonial economic and political structures and in national construction and defence, thus making a worthy contribution to the struggle of the African people to liberate themselves from neo-colonialism" in all forms. The message wishes for constant development of the militant solidarity, friendship and cooperation between the two parties and peoples. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1456 GMT 18 Mar 86 OW] /6662

TU DELEGATION TO LAOS--Hanoi VNA March 18--A delegation of the Vietnam Federation of Trade Union (VFTU) left here yesterday for Laos to attend a three-day conference of the trade union organizations of Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam, which opened today in Vientiane. It is led by Pham The Duyet, alternate member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and vice president and general secretary of the VFTU. [Text] Hanoi VNA in English 1501 GMT 18 Mar 86 OW] /6662

SOVIET-SRV FRIENDSHIP MUSEUM--Hanoi VNA March 18--A new Soviet-Vietnamese friendship museum has been inaugurated in Ashkhabad, capital of the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic. The first group of Vietnamese students was sent to Turkmenia 20 years ago to study electricity. Workers at the Rezemein thermo-electric power station have made great contributions to consolidating and broadening the fraternal relations between the Soviet Union and Vietnam. They have helped train many Vietnamese skilled workers. At the moment, nearly 200 young Vietnamese are learning construction work in Ashkhabad. The first of them will graduate and return to Vietnam this year. Vietnamese students have presented the new museum with photos and other materials concerning their years of study in Ashkhabad. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1458 GMT 18 Mar 86 OW] /6662

ENVOY TO ALGERIA PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--Hanoi VNA March 18--Vu Toan, Vietnamese ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Algeria, yesterday presented his credentials to President Chadli Bendjedid. Speaking on the occasion, President Chadli Bendjedid highly appreciated Vietnam's active cooperation with Algeria in various domains, and expressed his wish to see this cooperation further develop. He reaffirmed that his country will continue its close coordination with Vietnam to constantly consolidate the strength of the non-aligned movement. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1530 GMT 18 Mar 86 OW] /6662

CSSR RUBBER PLANTING AGREEMENT--Hanoi VNA March 18--A cooperation agreement for putting another 10,000 hectares under rubber at the Dong Nai Rubber Company was signed in Ho Chi Minh City on March 16 between Vietnam and Czechoslovakia. Signatories were Do Van Nguyen, director of the Vietnam rubber department, and Jan Stracar, vice minister of foreign trade of Czechoslovakia. Jan Cenzer, Czechoslovak Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City was present at the signing ceremony. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 1508 GMT 18 Mar 86 DW] /6662

SRV-ANGOLA SOLIDARITY MEETING-Hanoi VNA March 18--A "week of solidarity with the Angolan people" was opened here today with a meeting jointly sponsored by the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity and Friendship With Other Peoples (VCSFOP), the Vietnam AAPSO Committee, and the Vietnam Peace Committee (VPC). The participants at the meeting included Trinh Ngoc Thai, deputy head of the international department of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and general secretary of the VCSFOP; and Do Xuan Danh, general secretary of the VPC. Speaking on the occasion, To Hoai, writer and vice president of the Vietnam AAPSO Committee, condemned the Reagan administration for its feverish support and assistance to the South African racists and UNITA bandits in their raids on and invasions of Angola. These acts, he said, proved that the enemies of Angola are bent on the policy of state terrorism against peace, security and progress of nations. He also reaffirmed the Vietnamese people's solidarity with and resolute support for the Angolan people's struggle for national independence. [Text [Hanoi VNA in English 1505 GMT 18 Mar 86 OW] /6662

CSO: 4200/813

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

CONSEQUENCES OF LEADERS' ALOOFNESS FROM PEOPLE DISCUSSED

Hanoi DAI DOAN KY in Vietnamese 20 Nov, 4 Dec 85

[Article by Tran Dinh Van: "Let's Face the Realities"; passages enclosed in slantlines in *italics*]

[20 Nov 85 p 7]

[Text] I. When Will Less Emphasis Be Laid on the High Level and More Attention Paid to the Low Echelon?

After reading and hearing recapitulative and preliminary reports by many sectors at the conference, everyone is deeply worried about the fact that the situation has been unilaterally assessed in most instances, that realities at the grassroots level have not yet been exactly depicted, and that an inordinately rosy picture has sometimes been presented.

I do not remember how many times people asked me this question whenever I was on mission in various localities:

"Are you comrades at the central level aware of all affairs taking place at the low level?"

The root cause is quite understandable: Many general agencies and sectors at the central level have been accustomed to an old, almost unchanged working habit; they have rarely gone down to the grassroots and even if they ever did, their visits would be mostly leisurely and superficial. Before writing this article, I asked some drivers who had many years of service with a certain committee: "When you took out cadres on special missions, did you see them meet directly with the people?"

All of these drivers answered: "Very rarely. During many trips, we scarcely saw them meet with the people. During their visits to factories, they rarely met with workers; if ever, they did when workers were busy operating machines and had no mind to talk with cadres coming from the high level. The meetings were thus perfunctory and only a few words of greeting and inquiry were exchanged. During their meeting with the people, local cadres were also present so that the people could not speak their mind."

Immediately after the issuance of the resolution of the Eighth Plenum, in his speech at a conference of key cadres of various sectors and mass organizations at the central level, a member of the party Central Committee Secretariat called on cadres of some agencies who for long had scarcely ever approached the people to leave their "ivory tower," to come closer to forests if they are in charge of forests, and to come closer to the sea if the sea is their specialty. Leading cadres in each committee and ministry must go to primary organizations more often and meet directly and really with laborers at the grassroots level. These meetings must not be prepared and prearranged. These cadres must see with their own eyes the grassroots laborers and hear their wishes and aspirations instead of clinging to their desks and relying on books of all kinds and obsolete experiences to "concoct" some policies.

It is really painful to hear that "ivory towers" still exist at the present time. But this is very true because certain policies and measures related to the subsistence of tens of millions of people have been drafted without relying on local data and without conducting investigations and researches at the grassroots level but only by trusting the subjective and purely specialized knowledge of some high-ranking and powerful cadres who have turned their back on the realities of life. No sooner had some policies been promulgated than they "went bankrupt" when reaching the grassroots level, or the primary organizations had to "jump over the table" and implement these policies in a different manner in order to comply with the spirit and theme of the party resolutions and with the actual situation in their localities.

In his article titled /"Reflections on Spelling Plans on the Occasion of the 30th Birthday of the Planning Sector"/ published in the 23 and 24 October 1985 issues of NHAN DAN, Comrade Vo Van Kiet, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, wrote:

/"Through commandism, high-level agencies have usually shunned responsibility for failures so that the grassroots level has had to bear the consequences of all failures. Never have punishments been meted out to agencies having issued orders or sluggishly resolved problems relating to urgent requirements of the low level though their acts have caused damage to the people. On the contrary, too many forms of penalty have been employed against production installations. For example, the high level either assigns planned norms without providing conditions for implementation or precludes a list of unrealistic prices, which causes damage to the executive, but the high-level agency is not at all held responsible. This is also one of the causes of the habit of giving orders recklessly."/

In another passage, Comrade Vo Van Kiet wrote:

/"First and foremost, the issuance of many decisions and orders contradicts the principle of simplification and improvement of our mechanism and runs counter to the wish for 'less emphasis on the high level and more attention to the low echelon.' Once established, all regions and cadres want to demonstrate their existence and 'presence.' As a result, ever more complex

relationships have been created and many more meetings held without reaching clear-cut decisions. If many decisions and orders are issued, it will be hard to make them realistic."/

After reading the above words by Vo Van Kiet, a provincial committee chairman told me:

"Only people at the grassroots level can immediately feel the terrible consequences of an erroneous order or decision. No matter how disastrous it may be, a natural calamity can devastate only a region, say, one or two provinces at most but the consequences of an erroneous decision or policy will be immediately felt by the entire country and the damage will come at least to 1 billion dong or more. If so, why has such strict discipline been applied to the grassroots level? Inspection teams sent by the central level sometimes vied with each other to visit some production installation or another but inadvertently or deliberately omitted centrally run agencies which should have exercised control and prevented mistakes right at the outset. I greatly appreciate the attention you journalists have paid to natural calamities. My own province was once struck by typhoons but was promptly aided by other regions just because you journalists easily spread the news. I would suggest that you carefully study every erroneous order or policy, reveal its concrete consequences, and request in answer by the responsible agencies and individuals. Only by so doing can we prevent irresponsible acts." Investigating the root cause of the attitude of certain agencies and leading cadres in various sectors at both the central and local levels who have kept aloof from the realities of life and disregarded all views expressed by the masses, many comrades said that /criticism and self-criticism/ no longer receive due attention, that, worse still, people in many areas have carried out criticism and self-criticism only for the sake of appearance, and that internal democracy has almost ceased to exist.

This problem seems to have nothing new but is now turning into a hot issue just because some high-ranking and powerful cadres have sought by all means to avoid criticism and self-criticism, which are weapons to understand and transform realities, to strengthen and consolidate party and state discipline, to overcome one-sided views and fixed ideas, and to disclose and overcome existing shortcomings and mistakes.

The general secretary of our party pays great attention to the people's right of ownership and to the prerequisite for their acting as true owners—that is, whether their voice is respected. But, as has happened in many places, whenever the people praise them, the cadres will nod assent and say that the people are shrewd and have a stable standpoint and whenever the people criticize the improper execution of some tasks, the cadres will get angry and claim that the people "do not see the great benefit but only minor flaws" and that they "speak in the same vein as discontented persons"--which amounts to an all-out effort to smother public opinion.

In fact, this situation has existed and does not yet come to an end: nobody dares criticize a cadre making mistakes prejudicial to the common cause and whenever it is criticized, he will ignore the criticism and seek

by all means to harm the author. Almost as a rule of thumb, a cadre who evades collective control and gets accustomed to hearing only sweet compliments will always become self-conceited and "fancy he is above everyone else." When meeting with the masses of people and other cadres to disseminate some policy and answer questions arising from the realities of life, he will behave as a boss toward servants and often speak impolitely with pretentious and even arrogant manners.

President Ho considered criticism and self-criticism very important. He demanded that, first and foremost, the higher the function held by a cadre, the more seriously he should perform criticism and self-criticism and that the higher his rank, the more strictly he should practice discipline.

President Ho was always strict with himself. He said:

"Being president of a country does not mean being free to do anything you like."

He frequently advised party members and cadres:

"Internal unity and identity of views can be achieved only if criticism and self-criticism are regularly carried out from high to low echelons."

Comparing the present situation with the brilliant example set by Uncle Ho, we find that criticism and self-criticism are neglected in many places. People have used the "fear of being taken advantage of by the enemy" as a pretext to deliberately avoid mentioning negative practices, and some bad cadres have also hidden behind this pretext to intimidate everyone and to accuse critics of errors and shortcomings of "speaking in the same vein as discontented persons." Today the standard of knowledge of people and cadres is different from the past: Everyone hopes that an end be seen put to the habit of speaking only of good things without openly mentioning mistakes and shortcomings. Many people and cadres have said this very seriously and sincerely:

"We are not at all children to whom you may say anything. If you have something in mind, you had better say the truth to the people and then discuss with them the ways to overcome errors and shortcomings. Failure to openly tell the people about errors and shortcomings is comparable to the case of a sick person who does not want to see his doctor because, all things considered, it is always necessary to rely on the people and primary organizations to correct these errors and shortcomings. So why do you prolong a situation where serious mistakes are made, where you will feel obliged to speak about them only when they seem to be irrezediable and only when both the high and low echelons have to rush in and work very hard to change things?"

[4 Dec 85 p 7]

[Text] II. In Word and Deed

Flattery and bootlicking can develop only where criticism and self-criticism are performed nonchalantly. People do not have to worry about heaping praises to excess, for no one has ever sustained any loss by lauding his superior to the skies, but has instead reaped both honor and profit. On the contrary, he who blames and criticizes an agency or a high-ranking and powerful cadre will surely have qualms and apprehensions. If criticism is supported by truthful proof, the criticized person cannot deny his fault; but if you unfortunately have to deal with powerful people who are bent on concealing the truth, they will produce all sorts of arguments, claiming that "the method of criticism is not yet applied correctly," that "criticism has not been made at the proper time," and that "the pros and cons have not been weighed in making statements which have a seditious tendency proper to dissatisfied people."

The enemy has also been used as a pretext to prevent all critical views. Some have made this observation: "The harm done indirectly to us by the enemy already suffices to cause us a manifold loss," meaning that groundless fear of the enemy is such as to induce one to infringe a primarily important criterion of activity of the party and state apparatus, to limit and sometimes abolish criticism and self-criticism, to stand aloof from the realities of life, and to refuse to hear the truth from the people and the grassroots level. Naturally, the enemy only hopes that we will continue toadying to each other, for outstanding examples can be found in some countries that had to bear inconceivable consequences when they were entirely immersed in a false atmosphere of self-contentment and when their leading cadres at all levels wanted only to hear sweet words.

As for Lenin, it was all the more necessary to tell the truth openly no matter whenever and wherever the revolution encountered difficulties. He said:

"We must not hide our mistakes in the face of the enemy. He who fears that is not a revolutionary. Instead, if we tell workers: 'Yes, we have made mistakes,' this will mean that from now on we will no longer commit such errors."

Lenin also stressed:

"Openly admitting mistakes, finding their cause, and analyzing the circumstances leading to mistakes is an indication that the party is acting in earnest and fulfilling its duties. Doing so is educating and training the class and then the masses."

Lenin believed that persons fearing the enemy to such an extent that they dared not say the truth "were not revolutionaries" or "were at least degenerate elements."

No matter how painstakingly it has been wrought out, a policy will show up its strength and weakness only after it has been brought down to and tested at the grassroots level and after timely views have been contributed by all strata if we are not afraid of contradictory ideas. Of course, the enemy will unavoidably disseminate seditious allegations and will always try by all means to sabotage us, especially by spreading false rumors to aggravate our weaknesses and shortcomings. He will bribe our cadres and, for his own defense, turn these cadres into his own henchmen. He has shown great acumen: Recently, while leaders of various localities and sectors were still unaware of the currency-exchange order, illegal traders and people intent on getting rich by dishonest means were already rushing out to buy up all kinds of goods, cheap and dear, only to quickly turn their money into merchandise so that after the currency exchange they might dump their goods on the market to make a profit and collect the new currency. Being always on the lookout, the enemy will take full advantage of any shortcoming on our part to monopolize the market and disrupt the daily activities of our people.

To fight against the enemy and deviant elements to defend a policy or an economic measure, it is necessary not only to rely on specialized agencies but also to place confidence in the people, to really consider them our eyes and ears, and to motivate them to pass on both good and bad points and participate in developing and improving all newly promulgated policies and measures.

It is very regrettable that in many cases, and even quite recently when introducing a new policy, we have always followed the same dangerous track, with the high level merely giving orders to the low echelon but scarcely discussing with the grassroots and desiring only to hear people and cadres speak of favorable conditions and good things. Because any policy newly put into practice can hardly avoid mistakes, operational organs must heed all sources of information, good and bad, in order quickly to correct errors and prevent unnecessary losses. However, no sooner had public opinion complained about production obstructions caused by the policy in this or that area than someone "freundlessly accused" the critics of "speaking in the same tone as 'evil elements.'" Some agencies have even advised their cadres and employees to retain only the "benefit" derived from a newly implemented measure and to say nothing about any inappropriate method or negative aspect.

Clearly, many high-ranking and powerful cadres have utterly disregarded the people's and cadres' right of ownership and have closed their own eyes and ears to the realities which, willy nilly, are confronting everyone with so many urgent and acute problems about which we cannot remain silent. It is precisely mothers, wives, and homemakers who have raised their voice about negative aspects shortly after the recent implementation of some economic measures. In this respect, no one is more competent than our housewives who are bearing the brunt of the price storm and who have called their daily shopping at the market a "daily battle."

On hearing some of these ladies talk with one another, at first I did not see why they were speaking of "battle" so I asked one of them who was the wife of a department chief and herself a retired employee. She replied immediately:

"Please don't consider us backward when you hear us speak our mind. I am afraid you are like my husband; if so, it will make matters worse for us. On hearing me and my daughter--who is a mechanical worker--speak about the frightening price hike, he advised us to stoically put up with all hardships and to refrain from showing any reaction lest we should get a bad reputation for complaining. Furious with anger, I told him: 'I don't care whether you keep your mouth shut! You seem to have your head in the clouds: it daytime, you are in your office and back home in the evening, you merely sit in your armchair and watch television so how can you understand the "mental wringing" worries of your wife and children?' At present, what fills us comprise going to the market to going to the battlefield because the situation is very tense and because on arrival at the market each day, we always anxiously wonder whether the prices of all goods have gone up again. Each time we go to the market, we feel as if we are going to be robbed because though we have money, it is still losing value; moreover, we have to spend money on many other items and are stunned with surprise on hearing of their prices. That is why we call it 'daily battle.'"

On 23 November 1985, I attended the 40th anniversary of the founding of the inspection sector. A comrade with several decades of service with this sector told me:

"I have just read your article 'Let's Face the Reality'. Since it is to be continued, I don't know when it will appear, the next installment. May I suggest, however, that you propose that Central Committee members, ministers, and other leading comrades take some time to get in touch with realities right at the grassroots level instead of relying merely on their staff. To my knowledge, many staff members are also very bureaucratic and some of them know very little about the actual situation in the country despite their high academic titles and diplomas from this or that school. Though complaining that they are very busy and do not have the time to visit the grassroots, some leading comrades have assiduously attended conferences. In my opinion, it is advisable to attend fewer conferences and to spare more time to visit factories, rural areas, markets, harbors, bus stations, and collective areas more often. At least, they will be able to see with their own eyes a little of the way the people and cadres live, eat, dwell, and move about. Only by doing so can they easily sympathize with the people's grievances and complaints and evaluate the accuracy and falseness of their staff's reports. As long as the present obsolete working manner is maintained, together with many layers of staff surrounding leaders, the realities of life can hardly reach leaders; if ever, they will be so minute and scarce that leaders will probably reach decisions inconsistent with realities at the grassroots level."

I like very much the Soviet play "I Drove of Blue Horses on a Red Grassland" (which is also called "A Day of Lenin") which was run last month by our television station. The story was very interesting and moving. Lenin was very busy and the Soviet Union was then in a very difficult situation with a lingering famine. Nevertheless, Lenin spared time to receive an old farmer, a politically immature young man, and an ordinary woman who had sent a letter to him and wanted to see him personally. Lenin received each of them very cordially and he and his visitor were the only persons in his room. On seeing the old farmer, Lenin rushed to the door to welcome him and give him a piece of good news: "Luckily, you come just on the day I receive my sugar ration." Then, Lenin was all ears; he discussed and even argued and treated his visitor as his equal without any distance between the leader and the masses. Thus, life with its innumerable aspects came to Lenin from different sources and the information he received was not as arid as that contained in reports or imparted by cadres of various sectors.

I told my interlocutor:

"We have dealt at length with the fact that leaders of various sectors at the central and provincial levels keep aloof from the grassroots but the time has now come to take specific measures to make sure that leaders really come near to the people and realities of life as you have just said; otherwise, we will be leaving the work unfinished. The current practice of welcoming and seeing off leaders and holding reception parties in a very bureaucratic manner makes it very difficult for them to draw near the grassroots."

He replied:

"Quite right. There must be a change in the thinking pattern and working method together with a genuine revolution in the manner of work of leaders. The first criterion to assess the quality of a cadre is to see whether he keeps in touch with the grassroots and realities of life and whether he comes near the people and ordinary laborers. Therefore, even if leaders are to be served at irregular hours and great hardships involved in fact-finding trips to the grassroots level, one must not take "health protection" (granted, it is of utmost necessity to protect health) as a pretext for preventing leading cadres from coming near the people and laborers. All conditions must be created to enable leading cadres first to continuously keep abreast of developments at the low echelon, to understand the mind and aspirations of the grassroots, and to dare share to some extent in their difficulties and hardships; only by doing so can leading cadres sympathize with the people and understand them."

Let me go back to the foregoing Soviet play. When came the act in which Lenin met Comrade (Sl-u-ru-pa), minister of food industry of the Soviet Union, to discuss ways to make the state personnel and apparatus less

cumbersome, I was moved to tears by the leading cadres' share in the people's hardships. When Comrade (Si-u-ru-pa) appeared on the stage, the play's director stood up to introduce him:

"Comrade (Si-u-ru-pa) was a close comrade-in-arms of Lenin. After the seizure of power, he was appointed minister of food industry of the entire Soviet Union but he continued to live in the same manner as our people. During a meeting of the Council of Ministers, he fainted and collapsed because he was too hungry."

9332/9604
CSO: 4205/207

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

HAIPHONG ISSUES NEW CADRE, ORGANIZATION REGULATIONS

Haiphong HAI PHONG in Vietnamese 18 Jan 86 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed article: "Temporary Regulations on Decentralization of Organization-Cadre Management"]

[Text] On 6 January 1986, the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee issued Resolution 42/NQ-TC concerning temporary regulations on the decentralized management of organization and cadre work. The resolution stated:

Implementing the resolutions of the 8th and 9th plenums of the Party Central Committee and Resolution 38 of the Municipal Party Committee, in conjunction with promulgation of the resolution on a management mechanism ensuring the production and business autonomy of the primary level unit, the Standing Committee of the Provincial Party Committee issues temporary regulations on decentralized management of organization and cadre work as follows:

I. General Principle

1. The Municipal Party Committee provides unified leadership and management of organization and cadre work throughout the city while simultaneously decentralizing and strengthening the responsibilities and rights of party committee, department, sector, mass organization and primary levels in order for the organization and cadre work to answer the requirements of the political mission in the new situation.
2. In achieving various aspects of the organization and cadre task, it is necessary to ensure the principle of democratic centralism in accordance with the mechanism of the party leading, the people controlling and the state managing; to be appropriate to the new economic management mechanism; to ensure the interests and policies of the party and state; and to uphold the concept of disciplined organization in the organization and cadre work.
3. While decentralizing the organization and cadre work and assigning autonomy to various echelons and primary level units, it is simultaneously necessary to intensify inspection. It is necessary to establish and achieve cadre planning, cadre standards, cadre elementary and advanced training, and proper cadre evaluation and deployment to answer both the immediate and long-term requirements.

II. Decentralization of Organization and Cadre Work

In this field, the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee manages and makes decisions on apparatus organization and cadres as follows:

a. Concerning apparatus organization: The Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee decides apparatus establishment, division, incorporation and disbandment for departments, sectors and mass organizations at the municipal level, corporation and enterprise federations, and subordinate units of the Municipal Party Committee and the Municipal People's Committee; and for wards, districts, villages, subwards and major basic level units holding important political, economic and national defense positions. For other apparatus organizations, the Municipal Party Committee decentralizes organization proposals and decisions to the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee, district party committees, ward party committees, sectors and primary level scientific units.

b. Concerning cadres: The Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee directly manages the positions of department, sector and mass organization directors or deputy directors at the municipal level; corporation and enterprise federation secretaries, directors and equivalent positions; secretaries, chairmen, deputy secretaries and members of the party committee standing committees and people's committee standing committees of districts and wards; secretaries and directors of sector subordinate federations (service and equivalent echelons); secretaries and directors of a number of major primary level units with important social and economic and national defense positions (with an individual registry); personnel with a PH or MA, attorneys, and representative intellectuals (with a specific registry); delegates to the National Assembly who are also labor heroes, cadres active before the August Revolution of 1945, specialists, scientific and technical cadres, etc. with a regulated salary level. The Municipal Party Committee decentralizes management of the remainder to party committee departments, sectors and mass organizations.

III. Departments, Sectors, Mass Organizations, Municipal Federations and Other Equivalent Units

a. Concerning organization: Any study, proposal, establishment, division, incorporation or disbandment of production and business organizations subordinate to sectors (services and the equivalent) will be reported to the Standing Committee of the Municipal People's Committee for a decision. Differences of opinion are reported to the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee.

b. Concerning cadres: Municipal level departments, sectors and mass organizations at the municipal level are authorized to decide the appointment and deployment of directors (and equivalent positions) of corporation and enterprise federations and unions, bureaus and department deputy directors, and scientific and technical cadres with a regulated wage level, and are simultaneously responsible for supervising and inspecting achievement by basic level units.

3. Wards, Districts

a. Concerning organization: Wards and districts are responsible for reviewing the structure of village party committees, people's councils and people's committees; and of committee echelons of primary level party organizations subordinate to the district or ward.

Research and decisions on the establishment, division, incorporation and disbandment of apparatus organizations of primary level production and business units subordinate to the district on the basis of the total social and economic plan of the district, prior to a decision, must have the participatory opinions of the economic committees of the Municipal Party Committee and the concerned economic and composite sectors of the city. Differences of opinion must be reported to the Standing Committee of the Municipal People's Committee for a decision. In the case of the three inner-city wards, every establishment, division, incorporation and disbandment of an apparatus organization of basic level (state-operated) business and production unit must be reported to the Standing Committee of the Municipal People's People for a decision.

b. Concerning cadres: Cadre positions from directors and deputy directors of corporations, enterprises and hospitals, principals and vice principals of schools, bureau and department chiefs of districts, wards, etc., specialists, and scientific and technical cadres with a regulated wage level; secretaries, deputy secretaries and chairmen of people's committees, and cooperative directors in the villages; and cadres active before the August Revolution of 1945 in the village primary level unit.

c. For the other remaining apparatus organizations and cadre positions, the district and ward party committees decentralize responsibility to the sector and basic units subordinate to the district and ward for management and decision; with the district and ward party committees inspecting and managing the entire cadre rank at its own level.

4. Basic Production and Business Units, and Work Units are authorized to make decisions on bureau, department and shop apparatus organization and on cadre positions from deputy directors (and the equivalent) and down; and on specialists and cadres with regulated wage levels and workers and civil servants within their own unit.

5. Mass Organizations of the City: The Fatherland Front party and group, Trade Union Federation party and group, Standing Committee of the Do Chi Nu Communist Youth Union, Women's Association party and group, and Artists and Writers Association party and group coordinate with committee echelons and departments of the Municipal Party Committee in assuming primary responsibility for cadre management, formulating and implementing cadre planning, cadre standardization, and the elementary and advanced training of cadres in their own unit within the scope of their assigned function, mission and authority.

6. Public Security, Army Forces in Local Areas: Concerning the public security forces, the Municipal Party Committee manages the positions of departmental chief

and deputy chief and a number of bureau chiefs (with their own registry). As for the army, the Municipal Party Committee manages the party committee standing committees and the positions of commanders, deputy commanders and bureau chiefs of the Municipal Military Command.

7. The Transfer, Allocation and Receipt of Cadres, Workers and Public Servants: within the scope of the city are conducted on the basis of the stipulated table of organization with transferring and receiving agencies reaching agreement and then issuing a decision. Transfers from the provinces, other cities and units of the central government to the city, or from the city to provinces and other cities must go through the Organization Department of the Municipal Party Committee (if a cadre within the management purview of the Municipal Party Committee and cadres of party and mass organizations); and through the Organization Department of the municipal government (if another cadre within the state system). Every transfer of a cadre, worker or civil servant that concerns household registration in the inner city must be conducted precisely in accordance with regulations of the Municipal People's Committee.

8. Concerning the Specialist System in the Public Health and Education Sectors: The Medical Service and Education Service bear primary responsibility for management of their entire ranks and, in conjunction with the districts and wards, formulate and implement cadre planning, cadre standardization, and the elementary and advanced training of cadres in accordance with the overall development course of the city, districts and wards; and for transferring and reallocating high-ranking doctors and pharmacists, and middle-level general school teachers and up within the purview of the entire city. District and ward party committees transfer, deploy, promote, reward and discipline all the above types of cadres and specialists (high-ranking doctors and pharmacists, and middle-level general school teachers and up) within the scope of the district or ward, and before decisions are made, opinions are exchanged and unity reached with the managing sector; in cases of differing opinion, a report must be submitted to the Standing Committee of the Municipal People's Committee for a decision (through the Organization Department of the municipal government).

9. The Labor Service: units sectors, districts, wards and basic level units in concert the formulation of plans for advanced training to develop the worker ranks to answer the economic and social planning requirements of the city.

10. Retired Cadres, Workers and Public Servants: consisting of party, state organization, government, specialist, army, etc. cadres, are entirely under the management of the Municipal Veteran-Social Service which implements the policies and systems promulgated by the party and state; while simultaneously supervising and inspecting achievement by the various sectors and sectors. If cadres under management of the Municipal Party Committee, reports must be submitted through the Organization Department of the Municipal Party Committee Standing Committee for a decision.

11. In Duties of Cadres Pursuit in Cities or in Foreign Assignments: the managing agency and agencies with a related function are responsible for selection and posting to ensure professional standards and priorities precisely in accordance

with regulations of the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee and the Municipal Party Committee. If the matter is within the jurisdiction of the Municipal Party Committee and there are unusual political, economic, or social circumstances, a report must be submitted to the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee (through the Organization Department of the Municipal Party Committee).

III. Concerning Achievement Organization

1. Implementing the decentralization decisions of the Party Central Committee on organization and cadre work, sectors and echelons must uphold a spirit of responsibility and a concept of disciplined organization and strictly comply with the principles, procedures, systems and regulation articles noted above without arbitrary application.
2. Organization and cadre work must ensure the absolute leadership of the party, following the mechanism of the party leading, the people leading, the state managing by the system of: self-reliance, the masses, collectivization, opinions, and the party committee leading the masses and leading, in making suggestions to higher echelons for a decision. Upper echelons appoint the directors of primary level production and business units on the basis of election results by the workers and public servants. Directors are responsible for selecting their deputy directors. Upper echelons are authorized to inspect and veto every erroneous circumstance in the organization and cadre work of lower levels and to discipline the offending individuals and collectives. Appointed cadres with sufficient time to complete their mission but failing to do so must be replaced.
3. The relationships between echelons, sectors, local areas and the central government are specifically stipulated as follows:
 - a. Any echelon or sector with the authority for managing organization and cadre work has the primary responsibility to make a decision in examining opinions with subordinate agencies to make the proper preparations before a decision is made or a presentation is made to upper echelons for a decision; in cases where the two parties disagree, a report is submitted to upper echelons for a direct decision.
 - b. Agencies, enterprises, corporations, etc. of the central government located within the city (both inner city and suburbs), before making a decision on problems concerning organization and cadre work must discuss and reach agreement with the local party committee echelon; if concerning a party organization or cadre under management of the Municipal Party Committee, a report is submitted to the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee for a decision.
 - c. Departments of the Municipal Party Committee, within their own function, mission and authority, are responsible for participating with echelons and sectors in organization and cadre work; if concerning a party within the purview of the Municipal Party Committee, that participation must be with the Organization Department of the Municipal Party Committee. Members of the

Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee and the Standing Committee of the Municipal People's Committee are responsible for organs, departments and sectors concerning the political mission while simultaneously taking charge of and inspecting the organization and cadre work.

4. Salaries, allowances and awards for full-time party, trade union and youth union cadres of primary level production and business units are paid by these units in accordance with their unit wage funds and production and business results. However, every activity of the party, trade union and youth organization must properly ensure function, mission and authority in accordance with statutes and regulations.

5. The Organization Department of the Municipal Party Committee and responsible administrative organizations must study the streamlining (including establishment and disbandment) of party, administrative and mass organizations from the municipal to the district, ward and primary level in a manner suited to renewing the management mechanism, eliminating intermediate levels, and simplifying the apparatus and table of organization.

6. All echelons and sectors must strictly comply with the system of inspection and reporting once every 3 months and urgent reports at any time on the organization and cadre work to the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee (through the Organization Department of the Municipal Party Committee). They must formulate and achieve plans for standardization, elementary and advanced training, streamlining the organization cadre ranks of echelons and sectors, and reestablishing order in every aspect of the organization and cadre work.

The Standing Committee of the Municipal People's Committee must systemize the state aspect with the Organization Department of the Municipal People's Committee providing specific guidance in implementation. The Organization Department of the municipal government will assist the Standing Committee of the Municipal People's Committee in following, summarizing and inspecting the work in accordance with the decentralized functions.

This regulation is effective from the date of its signing, and all prior regulations are hereby rescinded. During the implementation process, any existing problems requiring solution should be reported to the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee (through the Organization Department of the Municipal Party Committee).

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PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

HAIPHONG PARTY CONFERENCE EMPHASIZES CONTROL TASK

Haiphong HAI PHONG in Vietnamese 11 Jan 86 pp 1, 4

[Article by correspondent: "Party Control Task Constantly Maintains Close Contact with and Supports City's Political and Party Construction Missions"]

[Text] During the 2 days of 9 and 10 January, nearly 200 leaders from the control committees of wards, districts, party organizations subordinate to the Municipal Party Committee, departments of the Municipal Party Committee and municipal party school attended a conference to review the control task of the municipal party organization during 1985 and to discuss the mission and task for 1986.

Attending the conference were Doan Duy Thanh, Member of the Party Central Committee and Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee; and Le Danh Xuong, Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee.

Also attending were delegates from the Control Department of the Party Central Committee.

Chairing the conference was Phan Thu, Member of the Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee and Chairman of the Control Department of the Municipal Party Committee.

The report of the Control Department of the Municipal Party Committee for 1985 stated: Last year, the control task of the municipal party organization was implemented in a total and uniform manner; with constant close contact with and support of the political mission of the city and the party construction task.

The task of controlling compliance with directives and resolutions in accordance with the spirit of Directive 34 of the Party Central Committee and Directive 05 of the Municipal Party Committee was more fully and profoundly recognized by all party committee echelons and control committees at all levels; therefore, it became a regular leadership task of party and control committee echelons with execution of the Directive of the 8th Plenum of the Party Central Committee and Resolution 38 of the Municipal Party Committee as the central mission of the sector; and delved into the control of key steps such as agricultural and industrial production, circulation and distribution, exports and market management, assisted to resolve urgent difficulties in production, circulation and distribution, stabilized organization and strengthened the confidence of the cadres, party members and the masses. Through this, there were also examination, conclusions reached and assistance to committee echelons in handling party members with errors and shortcomings.

Due to a change in realization, party committee echelons gave greater concern to the tasks of control, organization and supervision to raise the quality and effectiveness of the control task. The control committees of all party committee echelons actively developed and achieved good results in the missions of the control task in accordance with party statutes. Norms reached high levels in aspects such as resolving letters of accusation and complaint, the handling of party members with errors and shortcomings, and control of the disciplinary proceedings of lower level party committee echelons. Much more progress was made in the financial control task and the activities of control committees of primary level units compared with previous years. The control task cadre ranks were strengthened and progress was made in their realization and professional ability.

During 1986, the control task is continuing to assist committee echelons in successfully achieving resolutions 5 and 7 of the Party Central Committee, and Resolution 38 and the Resolution of the 17th Plenum of the Municipal Party Committee. Control committees at all levels are striving to achieve stronger changes and to totally and uniformly develop the various elements of the control task. The central theme is to coordinate firmly with all sections and sectors and to assist party committee echelons in strengthening supervision of control in executing directives and resolutions, especially Resolution 8 of the Party Central Committee, and in the achievement of leadership with control; to conduct planned and programmed control to achieve high effectiveness and through that, to raise the concept of disciplined organization in compliance with the directives and resolutions of the party; and to assist in raising the combat strength of party organizations, to raise the quality of party member ranks, and to take the initiative in preventing and restricting disciplinary violations; while simultaneously urgently achieving and raising the quality of all aspects of the control task in accordance with statutes; improve the work procedures of the control task at all levels; and motivate every organization, every force and every individual to conscientiously participate in the control task of the party in order to assist in the construction of pure and strong party organizations, and in promoting the successful completion of missions set forth by the party.

Doan Duy Thanh expressed an opinion asserting that under the guidance of the Control Department of the Party Central Committee and the Municipal Party Committee, control work by the municipal party organization during the recent past has traveled precisely in the right direction with a profound and effective theme, has totally evaluated man and work, and from that has created unified solidarity throughout the entire party organization and each basic level unit. Control work has assisted the Municipal Party Committee in resolving many problems and obstacles existing over many years in order to strengthen the confidence of the cadres, party members and people in the party, and has especially competently contributed in supervising achievement of the resolutions of the Party Central Committee and the Municipal Party Committee in shifting the mechanism of bureaucratic centralism and state subsidization to socialist economic accounting and business practices.

After warmly praising the efforts and achievements of the party control sector, the Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee deeply analyzed the new missions

of the city from 1986 to 1990, especially during 1986, the pivotal year of the 5-year plan and the year of the Sixth National Party Congress and the Ninth Congress of the Municipal Party Organization.

The Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee emphasized that during 1986, the control task of the party must be implemented in a total manner, especially the control of compliance with the important resolutions of the Municipal Party Committee on resolutely eliminating the six social ills, strengthening market management, and resisting theft and corruption in the ports and distribution and circulation areas. The control task must rely on the people. Control cadres must study and raise their standards in every aspect, must have new methods of thinking and working consistent with the practice of the local area, and must assist in creating unified solidarity within the party and the masses to build a strong and pure party.

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CSO: 4209/330

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE, AND FINANCE

HAIPHONG STRENGTHENS MARKET MANAGEMENT

Haiphong HAI PHONG in Vietnamese 8 Jan 86 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Strengthening Grain Market Management, Organizing Grain Trade Team in Each Subward; Selling Many Processed Grain Goods; Strictly Prosecuting Trade Members Selling at Incorrect Prices, Conniving with Peddlers To Pilfer Goods or Mix Good Rice with Bad; Do Son Promptly Handles Illegal Grain and Pork Trade and Moonshining"]

[Text] Aimed at strengthening grain market management, the Haiphong Grain Corporation Federation has established market management units responsible for inspecting and controlling compliance with the policy system, executing the organization formula, organizing support to ensure goods quality, weighing and measuring with a spirit and attitude of support, etc. The ward and district grain corporations have all established units to conduct market management work to coordinate with other market management forces in controlling the illegal grain trade at grain transfer points, markets and trade locations.

In order to firmly control grain sources and to support the requirements of daily life, the Grain Corporation Federation has assigned ward and district corporations to widespread organization of the grain trade of those who must sell and sales to those who must buy. All piers, bus depots, communications hubs and markets have a team buying and selling rice at the commercial business price. Within the inner city itself, ward grain corporations have organized a team in each subward to purchase and sell grain, consisting of rice and the various types of processed grain goods such as bread, rice cakes, etc.

To unify grain market management, the market management units all sell their confiscated illegal grain to the grain corporations in wards and districts. Agencies and enterprises have no grain business or trade function in the market.

The grain sector and corporations resolutely and strictly prosecute state store personnel selling at incorrect prices or conniving with peddlers to slip rice to the outside or mix bad rice with good.

Do Son District has strengthened market management with the purpose of stabilizing prices within the district.

During the last 10 days of December 1985, Do Son assembled 128 cadres from the public security, tax, commerce, grain and market management sectors to visit

villages, towns and major routes of communications to inspect and control the peddlers who are disrupting the market. In the agricultural production area, the district organized units to inspect, discover and promptly halt family trade in grain and pork, moonshining, gambling, etc.

By the end of December 1985, Do Son District had prosecuted many cases of moonshining and dispersed more than 20 illegal pork sales locations disrupting the market. The district has properly organized the buying, selling and butchering of hogs in the villages, ensuring sales precisely in accordance with the stipulated price of the city.

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CSO: 4209/330

HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

CEMENT PLANT BEGINS YEAR WITH INCREASED PRODUCTION

Haiphong HAI PHONG in Vietnamese 11 Jan 86 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Cement Plant Concentrates Efforts To Produce 28,000 Tons of Cement During First Month of Year"]

[Text] In observance of Cement Workers Day (8 January) and making achievements to celebrate the founding of the party (3 February), the cement plant has begun emulation to win victory from the very first month and quarter of the year.

Cadre and workers of all shops are ensuring the safe operation of equipment and machinery. The Trang Khen Quarry Enterprise is promoting the excavation and supply of sufficient amounts of stone for delivery to the plant. Bureaus and sections are actively supporting the production line and the lives of the workers and are creating conditions for raising efficiency, quality and effectiveness. During the first week of the year, cement output reached 900 to more than 1,000 tons daily.

During 1986, the plant is striving to produce 300,000 tons of sacked cement, 40,000 tons more than during 1985. During January, the plant is determined to produce 28,000 tons of cement.

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CSO: 4209/330

JPRS-SEA-86-057
1 April 1986

HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

TRANG KENH QUARRY SUPPORTS CEMENT PRODUCTION

Haiphong HAI PHONG in Vietnamese 9 Jan 86 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Trang Kenh Quarry Enterprise Begins First of Year Technical Training Phase"]

[Text] During 1985, the Trang Kenh Quarry Enterprise excavated 239,000 cubic meters of stone, exceeding the annual planned level by 6.2 percent; attaining 15,000 cubic meters of accumulated rock alone, exceeding the plan by 50 percent.

Developing the results of completing and exceeding the 1985 plan, the cadres and workers of the Trang Kenh Quarry Enterprise have fully prepared tools and equipment, and have begun a first of year phase of technical training from 1 to 7 January to make achievements for observing the anniversary of the cement workers with efforts to deliver to the plant 3,000 cubic meters of stone to support cement production during the first days of the new year. The enterprise is determined to excavate 75,000 cubic meters of stone to complete and exceed the plan beginning with the first quarter of 1986.

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CSO: 4209/330

HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

HAIPHONG CEMENT PLANT STEADILY INCREASES PRODUCTION

Haiphong HAI PHONG in Vietnamese 8 Jan 36 p 3

[Article by Ta Huu Ban, Director Haiphong Cement Plant: "Haiphong Cement Plant Strives To Follow Objective of Producing Much Cement for the Fatherland"]

[Text] This year, on the 56th anniversary of Vietnamese cement workers, the cadres and workers of the Haiphong Cement Plant are enthusiastic and proud over the results of successfully achieving the state plan for 1985: exceeding the planned level by 15,000 tons and the 1984 level by 3,000 tons.

The year 1985 was one of great challenge to the plant. The conditions needed for production such as electric power, raw materials, equipment, spare parts, etc. all suffered serious and long-term imbalances. However, under the leadership of the party organization, the cadres and workers of the plant strongly and self-confidently overcame the difficulties, reversed the situation, maintained and promoted production, and basically stabilized living conditions.

With a high degree of unified solidarity, plant leaders creatively applied the policies of upper echelons while simultaneously taking the proper and consistent position of emphasizing both aspects of production and care for the lives of the cadres and workers. These two aspects supplement and support each other in mutual development. This proper position has received unanimous support from the cadres and workers and has become a revolutionary action. Therefore, during periods of the greatest difficulty, the cadres and workers have remained closely attached to the plant and production momentum has developed at a rapid rate.

The 1985 plan achievement results are a victory in creatively implementing the resolutions of the Party Central Committee and the Municipal Party Committee in rearranging and reorganizing production, and renewing the management mechanism in accordance with objectives of efficiency, quality and effectiveness. The plant has gradually rearranged and streamlined the production line. Surplus laborers have been reorganized into auxiliary production detachments, ensuring sufficient work for the laborers, increasing the number of products for society and increasing the income of the plant. Within each time period, the plant has concentrated leadership and organization to urgently handle the various strong and weak elements and hot spots such as repair of old equipment, construction and installation of new equipment, improvement of organization and management in excavation work at the Trang Khenh quarry, coordination and joint enterprise with neighboring units to resolve problems in supplies, raw materials, means of

transportation, etc. These tasks have created a new equilibrium for the production line. With a high spirit of responsibility, the plant has boldly proposed and received upper echelon acceptance on a number of new mechanisms consistent with present conditions concerning wage contract, cash award and production incentive systems. In substance, these are mechanisms with an effect of closely connecting responsibility with the rights of the laborers and of achieving the collective ownership of the cadres and workers. With this concept of collective ownership, the cadres and workers are increasingly attached to their work and the plant. In the face of each difficulty, everyone joins in mutual discussion and concern, and the creativity of the cadres and workers is aroused and concentrated. During 1985, the plant applied 2,591 innovations to production for a saving of more than 1.2 million dong (in new currency). Many of these innovations were valuable such as the P600 cement supporting construction of the Ho Chi Minh museum, and natural gas drilling rigs; the project to mechanize the mixing of clinkers and additives in the 345 furnace system, etc.

With the success of the 1985 plan, the cement plant completed and exceeded the third 5-year plan by 1.05 percent over assigned cement production.

During 1986, the year beginning the fourth 5-year plan and advancing toward the Sixth National Party Congress and the Ninth Municipal Party Congress, the cadres and workers of the plant sense a great responsibility to the nation and the city in the production of much cement for the fatherland. The objective of the plant during 1986 is to strive for an output of 300,000 tons of cement (an increase of 40,000 tons over that achieved during 1985). From a realistic basis, the plant has constructed a revolutionary action program with high determination and dynamic and creative policy aimed at overcoming the difficulties and promoting production in conjunction with the conservation of materials, good use of equipment, etc. We have also urgently prepared every condition for producing the new materials of white cement and low brand cement. We have confirmed that only in this manner will we have the conditions for properly caring for the lives of the cadres and workers.

While successfully achieving the 1986 plan, the plant is simultaneously actively preparing every condition for production development during subsequent years in the fourth 5-year (1986-1990) plan. With in-depth investment, we will implement a plan of gradual research in replacing the coal operation with oil to increase output from 420,000 to 450,000 tons by 1990, including significant production in white cement and low brand cement. These are products of high economic value to increase the foreign exchange of the nation and the plant.

Effectively welcoming the anniversary of the cement workers, the cadres and men of the plant are determined to be victorious from the very first day and quarter; first of all promoting an emulation movement to complete the first quarter plan of 80,000 tons of cement to effectively make achievements in observance of the anniversary of the party (3 February) and the National Congress of Emulation Combatants and Heroes.

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CSO: 4209/330

POPULATION, CUSTOMS, AND CULTURE

HAIPHONG BANS RITUAL PARAPHERNALIA

Haiphong HAI PHONG in Vietnamese 21 Jan 86 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Production, Trade and Circulation of a Number of Items Relating to Superstition Prohibited"]

[Text] To effectively eliminate social ills and build a new life among all classes of the people, on 15 January 1986, the Municipal People's Committee issued Resolution 43 QD/NC forbidding the production, trade and circulation of a number of items relating to superstition.

The Resolution of the Municipal People's Committee stated that it is forbidden to produce and trade in goods such as paper offerings, rattan gold, pretend money, "hell" money and sacrificial memorials. No production or business licenses will be issued for the following goods: incense urns, shrines, and various types of paper or applique hangings and couplets with Chinese characters and indecent designs.

Trade licenses for colored paper will not be issued to individual businessmen. If other than state-operated facilities, licenses if deemed necessary will only be issued to a number of marketing cooperatives to trade in colored paper in limited quantities in support of celebration decoration requirements.

No hangings or couplets made of paper or cloth with Chinese characters and indecent designs or types of religious banners, pictures, paintings, statues and pennants may be paraded or displayed in a public location.

The People's Committee calls for conscientious compliance by all echelons and sectors responsible for educating and explaining to the people and those engaged in production and business, and simultaneously has forms of strict punishment for intentional violators.

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